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OPINION METER

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INSIDE

\$1T Loss

U.S. financial companies have lost more than \$1 trillion in value this year.

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41 Killed

A bomb ripped through the gates of the Indian Embassy on Monday, killing 41 people.

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New Perspective

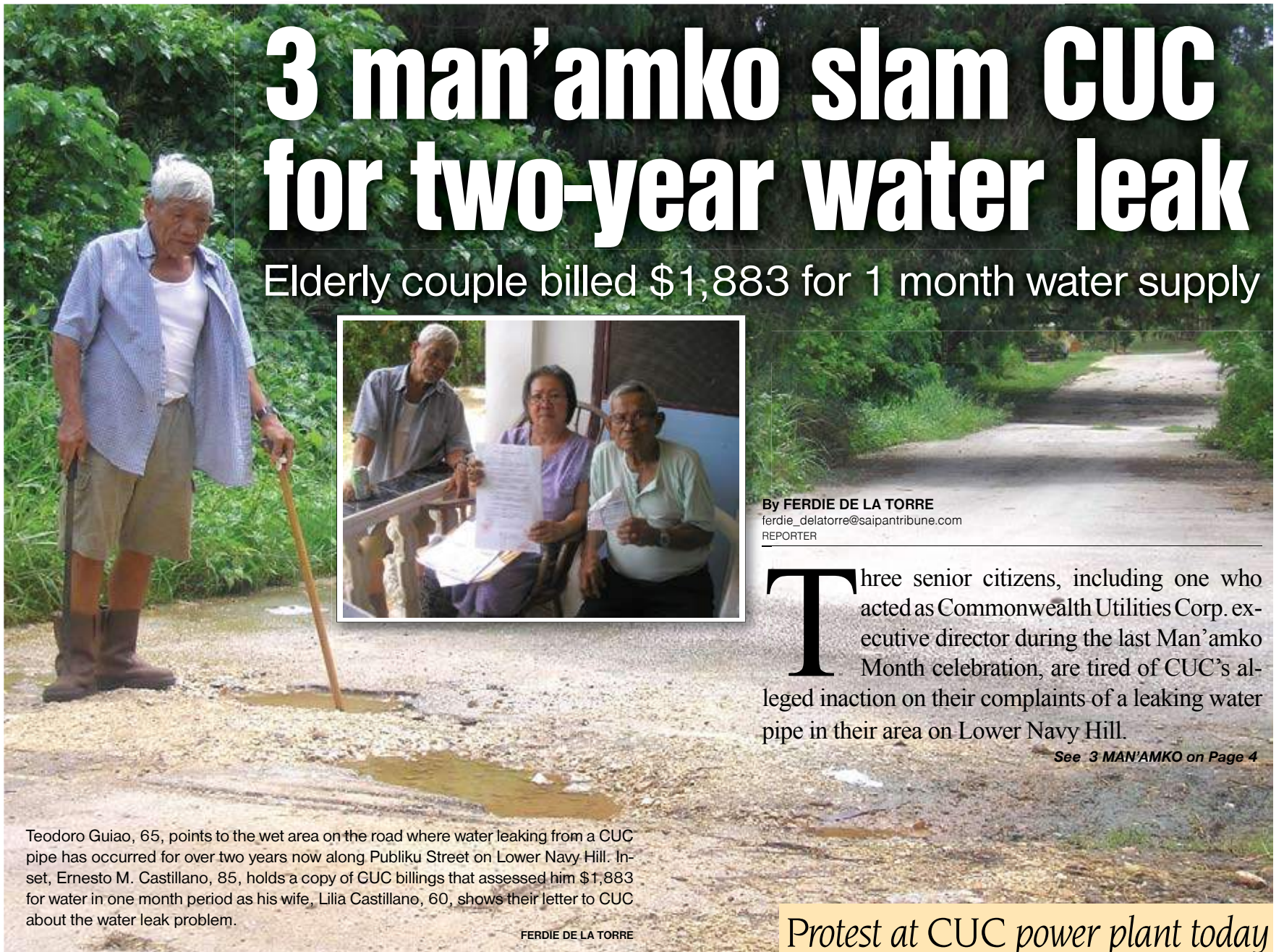
Photographer Kevin Connolly is used to people staring at him.

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3 man'amko slam CUC for two-year water leak

Elderly couple billed \$1,883 for 1 month water supply



Teodoro Guiao, 65, points to the wet area on the road where water leaking from a CUC pipe has occurred for over two years now along Publiku Street on Lower Navy Hill. Inset, Ernesto M. Castellano, 85, holds a copy of CUC billings that assessed him \$1,883 for water in one month period as his wife, Lilia Castellano, 60, shows their letter to CUC about the water leak problem.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Three senior citizens, including one who acted as Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director during the last Man'amko Month celebration, are tired of CUC's alleged inaction on their complaints of a leaking water pipe in their area on Lower Navy Hill.

See 3 MAN'AMKO on Page 4

Protest at CUC power plant today

By **STEFAN SEBASTIAN**
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Activists outraged over the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s most recent electricity rate hike and a host of troubles connected to the embattled agency's management are preparing for a rally today outside the power plant at Lower Base.

"People are saying now that

enough is enough," said Irene Tantiado, president of the Coalition of United Workers, a local labor group that has largely organized the rally through text messaging. "Everybody is invited to attend. This is an issue that involves everyone."

In addition to labor activists, the local community group

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RELATED NEWS

Lawmakers still cagey about CUC's MPLT loan. **PAGE 5**

Report: Climate change key for NMI coral reefs

By **STEFAN SEBASTIAN**
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Climate change is a key health concern for the Commonwealth's coral reefs, according to a just-issued federal report that says most of the nation's reefs are threatened by

See **REPORT** on Page 4



AP

A school of fish swim around coral formations Thursday, June 5, 2008 in Dry Tortugas National Park, Fla.



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CONNECT

Local

Appointment of new OPA chief in limbo

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

No appointee has yet been named to replace Public Auditor Michael S. Sablan, whose resignation goes into effect in two weeks.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. yesterday said the

governor is aware that he should be making a nomination for the Office of the Public Auditor, but it is not clear whether a candidate has been chosen.

"I do not know whether a candidate has been selected yet, but I can tell you that the appointee must meet certain legal requirements. The Ad-

ministration will abide by the legal requirements in making a nomination," said Reyes.

By law, a public auditor must be a certified public accountant with at least five years experience in accounting or government finance. Both the Senate and House of Representatives must approve any nomination

for public auditor.

Some of the CPAs in the Commonwealth are former OPA manager Rufo Mafnas, now running his own practice; Mike Johnson, a partner at the Deloitte accounting firm; Dora Guerrero, manager at Deloitte; Scott Magliari, in private practice; David Burger, in private practice;

Deanna Tessen, Microl Toyota; Dennis Yoshimoto and Yenny Tom, Joeten; former OPA manager David Blake; and former Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair Rex Palacios.

The law allows the governor to appoint a temporary public auditor to serve until the vacancy is filled. A concerned citizen, who refused to be named, has expressed concern that this provision theoretically allows an acting public auditor to serve indefinitely—or at least until the end of the appointing governor's term—without being confirmed by the Legislature.

The public auditor is appointed for a term of six years, but cannot serve for more than two six-year terms in a row. He or she can be removed for cause and by vote of two-thirds of the members of each house of the Legislature.

Sablan, the current public auditor, will step down on July 22, 2008 to pursue a private sector job. Sablan has served as the CNMI public auditor for over seven years. He was appointed to his first term as public auditor in 2000 by then Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio. In December 2006, Fitial reappointed him for another six-year term.

Faulty electrical wiring cause of Garapan fire

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Fire investigators determined

that faulty electrical wiring was the cause of Monday's blaze that burned the entire second floor of a commercial building in Garapan.

During their investigation, firefighter Daniel Suel said they found a lot of wirings or connections that were not done by professionals but by somebody unaware of the local electrical code.

"We found several indications that the fire was caused by electrical overloading," Suel said.

The three-story building is located along Middle Road corner Dama Di Noche Street. No one was hurt in the blaze. Only the second floor was razed. According to the American Red Cross, the 27 affected Chinese residents were sent to the Century Hotel.

Suel said the floor of the build-

See **FAULTY** on Page 4

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Attorney for Petitioners
Martin Dela Cruz Camacho and
Raynita Lizama Camacho

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION) FCD AD
OF ADOPTION OF,) CASE NO. 07-0331
NATHANIEL ARAGON ALEJO)
Minor,) NOTICE OF
BY: MARTIN DELA CRUZ CAMACHO) HEARING
and RAYNITA LIZAMA CAMACHO)
Petitioners.)

Please take notice that the above-stated matter shall come on for hearing on the 28th day of June, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. in the Commonwealth Superior Court on the petition of Martin Dela Cruz and Raynita Lizama Camacho for their appointment as a general guardian for minor child Nathaniel Aragon Alejo (d.o.b. 07/18/2002) born in the Philippines. Those wishing to be heard on this matter, please contact Danilo T. Aguilar, Esq. at the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar, or appear at the Commonwealth Court at the above-stated date and time.

Dated June 26, 2008.

/s/ Clerk of Court

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MVA eyes emerging Chinese, Russian markets

By **STEFAN SEBASTIAN**
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BUSINESS EDITOR

China and Russia could become the new frontier for the Commonwealth's efforts to market itself as a tourist destination abroad in the coming decade, yet officials with the Marianas Visitors Authority for now are expecting an upswing in tourism among key Asian markets in the near term after an aggressive marketing campaign.

Tourism in the Commonwealth has suffered in recent years, a decline some experts attribute to a recent slump in the Asian economy. Yet the MVA's efforts to boost the number of visitors to the Commonwealth

from nation's like Korea and Japan appear to have seen some success, according to the agency's managing director for Japan, Michael Merner.

At an MVA meeting Monday, Merner cited statistics showing a recent 35-percent jump in Korean tourism and a 27-percent increase in Japanese tourism, a boost linked to the MVA's efforts to raise the number of flights arriving on Saipan through airlines like Northwest and Asiana. As tourism officials try to build on these gains, he said, Russia and China are the MVA's next likely targets for marketing the Commonwealth.

"China and Russia are, of course, what's on the horizon

and as we look 10 years down the road, that's where the significant growth is going to be," he said, noting MVA's recent efforts to establish chartered airplane services from Russia. "Both in China and Russia, the MVA is laying the groundwork, laying the foundation."

The growing number of Chinese travelers is the primary attraction for any potential MVA effort in China, Merner added. With an estimated 41 million outbound travelers each year, which could jump to 100 million by 2020, the Chinese market is a significant and as yet untapped source of tourists for the Commonwealth, he said. "The growth in the world tourism market over

the next 10 years is definitely going to be in China and that's one place we need to focus."

In contrast, the number of Russian tourists likely to visit the Commonwealth is much lower but this demographic could nonetheless contribute significantly to the economy.

"In terms of the Russian market, it's not so much the growth but what they spend," Merner said. "They spend way more than anyone else when they come here."

MVA's work in Japan could also see an expansion in the coming year, Merner added, as the agency is looking at the Japanese cities of Fukokoa and Sendai for potential marketing efforts.

Meanwhile, although MVA board chair Jerry Tan welcomed the early signs of the local tourism market's recovery, he noted in an interview that the rising cost of jet fuel has proven a significant problem for airlines that serve the Commonwealth. To bolster tourism in Korea and Japan,

he said MVA is working on increasing air travel service and a host of promotions and marketing efforts.

"It seems like we're getting strong support from the tourism industry," Tan said. "We do need to encourage all our travel trade partners to support the destination."

Tinian seeks new marketplace to jumpstart island economy

By **STEFAN SEBASTIAN**
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Tinian Mayor Jose San Nicolas is aiming to boost the island's economy with a new marketplace project that could revive the local agriculture industry if it wins funding from public

land officials.

In a proposal presented to the Marianas Public Land Trust during a hearing on Tinian Monday night, San Nicolas requested a \$1.3 million loan to construct the new marketplace and buy equipment for it.

"Revitalizing farming and

ranching is good for the local economy," the proposal says. "We can produce rather than import. Money stays in our local economy."

The new marketplace could give Tinian residents a place to purchase fresh, organically grown produce and prompt visitors to the island to buy locally made goods, it adds.

A key aspect of the marketplace proposal is a plan for a mobile slaughterhouse that complies with U.S. Department of Agriculture standards. The slaughterhouse would let Tinian ranchers have the meat they bring to market inspected by the USDA in order to sell it in stores. Keeping a mobile slaughter site, the proposal says, will prove cheaper than a stationary building.

To give local farmers a chance to extend the shelf life of their

products—and, consequently, their profit margins—the marketplace proposal carries plans for so-called "value-added" sales.

"In times of over-production of a particular vegetable or fruits," that means they "cannot be sold fresh, we can then process them to be sold as processed local products," the proposal says.

For example, excess papayas or guava can be transformed into jam, bananas can be turned into banana chips, other vegetables could be pickled and fresh pork could be made into sausage.

Repayment of the loan would come from local revenue. A confidential source says the mayor's office is eyeing government revenue generated by local casinos as a way to get that funding.

Officials with the MPLT were not immediately available for comment.

NMI allocated \$2M for housing projects

The Commonwealth expects to receive over \$2 million from the federal government for local housing projects.

According to the Northern Marianas Housing Corp., the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has allocated some \$1.37 million to the CNMI under the community development block grant, \$583,000 for housing, and \$63,000 emergency shelter projects.

These allocations are for program year 2008.

To access the funds, the administration through NMHC must submit a grant application package that includes an action plan and an official House joint resolution authorizing the CNMI government, through


Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, to apply for and receive the grants.

House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios has pre-filed the resolution. The House is expected to vote on it during session today.


Administered by HUD, the community development block grant provides eligible communities with annual direct grants that can be used to revitalize neighborhoods, expand affordable housing and economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services.

The program is designed to benefit low to moderate-income persons. More than 80 percent of CNMI residents are considered persons of low- and moderate-income under HUD standards. (Agnes E. Donato)

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Judge orders NMC to produce papers being asked by Torres

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Superior Court has ordered Northern Marianas College president Carmen Fernandez and her co-defendant in a lawsuit filed by Rep. Stanley T. Torres to produce all public records requested by the lawmaker.

In the same decision issued yesterday, associate judge David A. Wiseman denied a motion to dismiss the allegations against Fernandez and then acting NMI Board of Regents chair Eloise Furey.

Wiseman, however, granted a motion to dismiss the allegations against former assistant attorney general Linda Waugh and NMC private counsel attorney F. Matthew Smith.

In his 10-page order, the judge said that, according to the Open Government Act, all public records shall be

available for inspection, "unless inspection of such records is in violation of any Commonwealth or federal law."

"Here, it is evident from the record that NMC has offered to produce the requested records insofar as they do not violate any protected privacy interests or CNMI or federal law," Wiseman said.

Wiseman agreed with Torres that the latter is entitled to inspect the requested records.

The judge directed the parties in the case to meet and confer in good faith to establish a method of producing the requested records for inspection by Torres without revealing constitutionally or legally protected records.

In dismissing the allegations against two lawyers named as co-defendants, Wiseman said that, since Waugh and Smith are not officers having custody of the records, the plain language of the complaint "fails to state a cognizable

legal claim against either attorney."

With respect to Fernandez and Furey, Wiseman said the two have the apparent authority to produce or direct the production of records, and should be deemed to be officers having custody pursuant to the OGA.

Torres sued Fernandez, Furey, Waugh, and Smith for allegedly not producing records that he requested pursuant to the Open Government Meetings and Records Act.

In the complaint he filed without a lawyer, Torres asked the court to issue an injunctive order declaring that the defendants' responses to Torres on June 12, 2007, which was followed by a request for cooperation from the House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare chairman, were deficient and in violation of OGA.

The congressman asked the court to declare that Fernandez's and Smith's

lack of response to his Aug. 2, 2007, request was in violation of the OGA.

He asked the court to require Fernandez and Smith to discontinue their

3 nabbed for allegedly stealing, forging checks

Police arrested on Monday three persons who were allegedly engaged in stealing and forging several checks of a company.

Milton B. Camacho, Barbie Ann B. Borja, and Zenita B. Cabrera, also known as Zenita C. Joh, were arrested for theft and receiving stolen property.

In yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo each imposed a \$10,000 cash bail for the temporary release of the defendants.

Preliminary hearing was set for July 16.

Detective Vincent K. Basa stated in his report that on June 18, 2008, a person disclosed that Borja and

alleged violation of the OGA.

Torres also sought an order requiring the four to comply with OGA within 48 hours by producing the records "that were unlawfully withheld, along with an explanation of how the claimed exemption applies to the records withheld."

Cabrera broke into an establishment located behind the former Arizona Sports Bar in Susupe and stole some company checks.

Two days later, the owner of Freedom Inc. reported to the police that a bank employee had called him up about some of the company's checks that the bank had received.

The bank employee told the businessman that his account is no longer active.

Further police investigation allegedly revealed that the three defendants were involved in the stealing of checks and cashing them at some stores on Saipan. **(Ferdie dela Torre)**

FAULTY

From Page 2

ing where the fire occurred contained two sections that were partitioned into rooms. There were five bedrooms in each section, he said. The middle portion was where the fire was strongest, he said.

Suel said the tenants told him that 25 minutes after the power came back, they heard somebody come out of one of the rooms, saying there was a fire in the building.

"One witness saw the fire at the back of that particular section. Our investigation corroborated that that's where the fire started," Suel said.

He said there were 24 people staying

in the rooms.

"I believe four people were sharing one room," Suel said, adding that he saw at least two children.

The investigator said that based on the electrical wirings he saw, the building was in violation of the fire code and building code.

He said they submitted their findings to the Attorney General's Office, which

will determine whether citations or charges will be filed against the building owner.

Fire Division acting deputy director Tom Manglona said their reports indicated that when their units arrived at the scene, the tenants were already out of the building.

"No one was in the building when firefighters came," Manglona said.

He said their primary concern was to make sure people in the building were all safe and accounted for and to mitigate the fire damage to the structure.

"All in all I think it was a very successful fire ground operations, given the time that took our personnel to respond," he said.

Firefighters placed the fire under control at 6:35pm.

REPORT

From Page 1

a host of manmade problems.

The report, released Tuesday by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, reveals the Commonwealth's efforts to monitor and assess the condition of coral reefs "made remarkable strides" in recent years yet concerns that climate changes will harm coral ecosystems have also

"heightened."

Among the climate-related factors that could affect local corals, the report says, is coral bleaching, a loss of pigment caused when higher than normal ocean temperatures or other stressors force coral to expel the algae that give it color. When this occurs, many corals begin to starve and can often die if the stress continues.

The NOAA report notes that fears linked to coral bleaching have increased in the Commonwealth since

2001, when a significant bleaching event occurred in the southern islands. In response, NOAA has recently made gathering data on temperature shifts in local waters a priority, the report says.

A new climate threat recently added to NOAA's list of condition requiring attention for the Commonwealth's corals, the report adds, is ocean acidification. When the ocean absorbs airborne carbon dioxide, its pH level can change, making the water too acidic for some species, including coral, the

report says.

Land-based pollution, such as sewage, beach erosion, coastal development and overfishing also are to blame.

Nationwide, the report listed half of America's coral reefs in "poor" to "fair" condition. "NOAA's coral reef program has made some significant progress since it was established 10 years ago but we need to redouble our efforts to protect this critical resource," said NOAA administrator Conrad Lautenbacher

Jr. in a statement.

Meanwhile, the CNMI Coastal Resources Management Office put out a request for proposals today seeking help in crafting a needs assessment on how the Commonwealth uses its beaches and the Saipan lagoon.

CRM natural resources planner Kathy Yuknavage said the assessment would help the office with future policy decisions such as what activities government officials should authorize.

PROTEST

From Page 1

Tao Tao Tano is gearing up for the rally, slated for 5:30pm. Tao Tao Tano president Gregorio Cruz welcomed the event, saying CUC's problems are "something we can all unite on."

The rally comes as local watchdogs are questioning a multimillion-dollar deal for emergency power CUC inked

last month with Aggreko International. CUC's former director in a statement last week, for example, said key provisions in the contract could lead to added costs for the Commonwealth.

Telesource, the company tasked with operating Tinian's power plant, has also previously criticized the deal, saying it could have provided the same services for roughly half the price of the new contract.

Meanwhile, the organizer who spear-

headed a major rally calling for reform at CUC last month, *MP Magazine* publisher Ed Propst, is raising fresh questions about the utility's status as an arm of the government.

At issue, Propst said in an interview Tuesday, is a 2006 opinion penned by CNMI Attorney General Matthew Gregory on the status of loans given to CUC from the Northern Marianas Retirement Fund, a pension fund for government employees. In the opinion, Gregory writes

that CUC is "not an agency or instrumentality of the CNMI government" and that, consequently, it may use loans from the fund for operating expenses, a move prohibited for other government offices. The loans also would not be subject to legislative approval, the opinion says.

The opinion is "insulting," Propst said, adding it leads to a host of concerns about CUC's conduct and management. Despite the attorney general's assertions, he noted, CUC had to get a host of gov-

ernment approvals for the Aggreko deal to move forward. "To suggest that it's not an agency or instrument of the CNMI government, that's the most absurd thing someone can say," Propst added.

However, Gregory defended the opinion, saying that solid legal arguments refuting it have not yet surfaced. "I stand by the opinion and the reasoning behind it," Gregory said. "I certainly have never heard anyone say they had a problem with it before."

3 MAN'AMKO

From Page 1

Worse, apparently due to the leak problem, CUC billed two of them—a couple—\$1,883 for a one-month supply of water.

Teodoro Guiao, 65, Ernesto M. Castellano, 85, and Lilia Castellano, 60, all U.S. citizens and residents of Publiku Street on Lower Navy Hill, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that they have been reporting to CUC the leak problem in their area for two years now.

Guiao and Mr. Castellano are former construction workers. Mrs. Castellano used to be a saleslady at the former La Fiesta Mall.

"It's really a waste of water! Can you imagine, since last Liberation Day, the water kept overflowing into the road. The overflow only stopped now (Tuesday) at 9:30am because the water supply was cut," Guiao said.

Saipan Tribune contacted CUC Water

Division manager Mariano Iglecias for comments, but he was not available.

CUC Water and Sewer Division deputy director Bruce Megarr, however, called *Saipan Tribune* and said they are addressing the problem and that in fact they just repaired one leak in that area last week.

"I know the problem on this road. It's an old line and in my opinion the material that was put in was mismatched with conditions. We're working on this as part of our capital plan to replace that whole line," Megarr said.

With respect to the \$1,883 water billing, the deputy director said he would look into that and have an answer today, Wednesday.

In an interview, Guiao said that during last May's Man'amko Month celebration, he was appointed to be the CUC executive director for one day.

He said CUC staff toured him around the different offices then gave him an award for his contribution to the utility agency.

Guiao said as the "executive director" he informed an engineer at CUC about the leaking pipe in their area, but that no action was taken until now.

"I can't even show CUC's award to my neighbors and friends because I am embarrassed that I became an 'executive director' yet I failed to do something about the leaking problem in our place," he said.

Guiao said the overflowing water has damaged the road, posing a danger to motorists.

Mrs. Castellano said CUC actually fixed the leak in February to March 2006 after repeated calls, when it began to look like there was a small creek in their area.

It took CUC crew one month to fix the leak. But after two to three weeks, water started overflowing again almost at the same spot.

After the repair, around April 2006, Mrs. Castellano and her husband were stunned when CUC billed them \$1,883.28 for the water they allegedly

consumed in 29 days.

Including the electric power billing, the Castellano couple, who were with four other family members, were charged a total of \$2,060.90 in that April 2006 billing period.

"I couldn't eat and sleep and was crying for a week thinking about our billings. I have been jobless for 10 years now and my husband has been relying only on his monthly support from SSI (Supplemental Security Income) in the amount of \$600," she said.

The Castellano couple complained to CUC about the excessive water billing. After their complaint, CUC did not ask them to pay the \$1,883.28 billing. However, according to Mrs. Castellano, CUC has yet to remove that big amount from their monthly billings.

As a result, as of July 6, 2008, although their metered water was only \$16.20, the past due amount has boosted their power and water billings to \$2,484.76.

"CUC should have removed that

overcharged water billing from our utility billings. I don't know if they are charging us interest because of that. We are old now and we don't have jobs to pay that big amount," Mrs. Castellano stressed.

Saipan Tribune learned that there are three other waterpipe leaks located along Publiku Street.

Besides the leak problem, which has worsened the road's condition, the ravine next to the road itself doubles the danger to motorists. Guiao had taken the initiative to trim the bushes along the shoulder of the road to alert motorists to the ravine. He even planted coconut trees on the shoulder to prevent motorists from falling into the ravine.

A few years ago, Guiao's van, with his wife and daughter inside, nearly fell into the ravine. He said if not for a big *tangan-tangan* tree, his van would have plunged into the ravine.

A few months ago, a Korean motorist also fell into the ravine near their house.

Lawmakers still cagey about CUC's MPLT loan

By **AGNES E. DONATO**
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REPORTER

Lawmakers remain unconvinced the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's proposal to borrow money from the Marianas Public Land Trust is legal.

The legislative leadership, in a meeting yesterday, failed to come up with a decision on whether to approve or deny CUC's loan request amid concerns about its legality. This came despite a recent legal opinion issued by an assistant attorney general saying MPLT can provide the

loan to the utility.

"Everyone agrees to the loan as long as everything is legal. The problem is that there are so many questions that have not been answered," said Rep. Ray N. Yumul, chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means.

Yumul said the lawmakers are concerned about a constitutional provision that makes it illegal for a CNMI government agency to use borrowed money on operational expenses.

CUC plans to use the proposed \$4.5 million loan to pay for its temporary power contract

with Aggreko International, for its fuel expenses, and for its debts to contractors Telesource CNMI and Pacific Marine and Industrial Corp.

An alternative to providing the loan, Yumul said, is for MPLT to transfer the money to the general fund for appropriation by the Legislature. But even this approach has a legal setback. By law, the Legislature cannot appropriate money from the general fund at the moment because the CNMI government is operating on last year's budget—or on what is called "continuing resolution."



Yumul

In a legal opinion issued July 3, 2008, assistant attorney general R. Anthony Welch said the MPLT "can make an investment in CUC, if the investment provides the MPLT with a reasonable rate of return through payment of interest and provides MPLT with adequate security for the loan."

Welch also said the Legislature could secure the loan by passing a law that allows repayment of the loan using the funds that are annually transferred from the MPLT to the general fund of the Commonwealth.

Under the Constitution, the

Department of Public Lands is tasked with managing leases of public lands on behalf of the people of Northern Marianas descent. After deducting administrative costs from the collected fees, DPL transfers the balance to the Marianas Public Land Trust. MPLT then invests the money. Income earned from those investments is transferred to the general fund for appropriation by the Legislature.

The MPLT board of trustees initially adopted a resolution in favor of CUC's loan request. But the board later cancelled the resolution after the potential legal issues were brought to its attention.

One such legal barrier is a 2006 executive order requiring CUC to get the consent of the

Legislature before making any loans worth over \$500,000.

Because of its financial problems, CUC currently cannot get a loan from outside lending institutions.

OPM cites flaws in bill that returns it to CSC

The Office of Personnel Management has listed flaws in the latest version of a bill returning the CNMI government's hiring agency to the control of the Civil Service Commission.

OPM director Mathilda Rosario said she supports the intent of the bill, but the new version, which has been proposed to substitute the original language of the bill, "will create more problems for the government than it will correct."

Rosario, in a letter to the House Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations noted that the bill currently under review by the committee does not comply with federal law for several reasons. It omits protection against discrimination based on color, disability, and veteran status, and it mislabels "national origin" as "place of origin." It also offers no protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation, which, while not covered by federal, is protected in the federal civil service system.

Rosario said the bill has no guidelines for the selection of Civil Service Commission members that would provide fair representation to the three senatorial districts, women, and Carolinian employees.

Another missing element is a provision allowing the government to hire on contractual basis professionals that might be unavailable through normal recruitment process, she said. Neither does the bill include a clear provision for the hiring of professionals that are not locally available, such as physicians, attorneys, nurses, and other medical or professional staff, outside of the civil service.

The bill provides no term for the OPM director and essentially makes it a lifetime appointment. There is also no statutory salary for the OPM director, Rosario added.

Further, there is no provision in the proposed legislation for a work experience equivalency for the college degree. (Agnes E. Donato)

2nd Annual Saipan/Guam Youth Baseball Tournament July 6th 2008 RAFFLE WINNERS

		Ticket #
GRAND PRIZE:	Jocelyn L. Teregeyo	16009
1st prize	MS Palacios	4315
2nd	Patrick Reyes	9162
3rd	JR	3832
4th	V.S.DLC	17961
5th	No Name	9237
6th	Vincente Reyes	10833
7th	Clingkoe, Clarie	11810
8th	Blossom Inos	2777
9th	No Name	6254
10th	Martin Igitol	8003
11th	Viannie Mesa	11324
12th	T. Naruyg	14811
13th	Lynae Atalig	16776
14th	Devyn C. Cabrera	16612
15th	Zenaida F. Agda	2936
16th	Dion Lizama	1128
17th	Joshua S.	6903
18th	NAU	8843
19th	Dolores M. Agulto	12721
20th	Joe Ada	12849
BONUS PRIZES		
21st	Rhel Ngiraisui	2609
22nd	Arnold Ilo Kapileo	13819
23rd	Ian Rogolifo	14298
24th	Peige M. N. Tomokane	11491
25th	Juan Manibusan	13093

You have 30 days from July 7th, 2008 to redeem your prize by calling RuthAnn Sakisat at 285-0555 or TJ Litulumar at 322-1633.

We would like to thank everyone who purchased tickets and those community and committee members who donated towards the raffle prizes.

Coca-Cola & GOLDEN TICKET giveaway

ADMIT FIVE

Your pass to free movies ALL summer long!

the Coke side of life

Enter and have a chance to win the "Coca-Cola" Golden Ticket Giveaway each time you purchase a 6-can pack or a 1.25-liter bottle of any "Coca-Cola" family product at participating outlets from June 7 to July 31, 2008.

Win the Ultimate Movie Weekend Giveaway package! It's your Golden Ticket to Five (5) FREE movies ALL summer long! See entry box for more details.

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FBI issues alert vs e-mail, mail scams

The Saipan office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation has received reports from dozens of citizens regarding suspicious mail and e-mail solicitations. Stopping these solicitations is difficult from a law enforcement

perspective due to the fact that the perpetrators are usually operating in foreign countries outside the jurisdiction of U.S. law enforcement agencies. The best way to combat this epidemic is to educate the public on how to

recognize these fraudulent solicitations and encourage people to avoid them. Toward that end, the FBI wishes to advise citizens of the following information:

Tips to avoid international mass marketing fraud

■ If you receive a letter, e-mail or telephone solicitation from another country asking you to spend personal banking information, do not reply in any manner.

■ If you know someone who is corresponding in one of these schemes, encourage that person to contact the FBI.

■ Be skeptical of individuals representing themselves as

Nigerian, other foreign government officials, or claiming to be the FBI, U.S. Customs or the Internal Revenue Service asking for your help in placing large sums of money in overseas bank accounts, asking for your bank account information, or asking for advance fees so that you can collect any funds or alleged winnings.

■ Do not believe the promise of large sums of money for your cooperation.

■ Guard your account information carefully.

Individuals who have lost a significant amount of money due to one of these schemes are encouraged to report this criminal activity to the FBI at 322-6934. Additionally, the information can be reported to Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) via the FBI homepage at <http://www.fbi.gov>. (PR)

Beautify CNMI sets Koblerville substation cleanup

Beautify CNMI announced yesterday that it will be conducting its annual cleanup of the Koblerville Youth Center and Substation on July 20, from 8 to 12 noon.

The group wants to fill the area with more trees and not just flame trees but a mix of different species. Last year, the group planted 28 flame trees.

"We are focusing more on the street side of the youth center because the government has a long-term plan to turn that into a soccer stadium," said Beautify

CNMI's Angelo Villagomez. "We cleaned up the place and for the last two years we have been maintaining it."

The cleanup is part of Beautify CNMI's several long-term goals to promote ecotourism in the Commonwealth, to reduce illegal dumping and littering, and to create an interconnected system of parks and trails.

"With the parade, people still leave garbage along the side of the street all along Beach Road. People picnicked during the weekend and even during

the week there are always beer cans and other stuff around the ground," said Villagomez.

"If Parks and Recreation and the Mayor's Office didn't have to spend all day picking up other people's garbage along Beach Roads and other place, the government can actually spend time in making our neighborhoods nicer. And if people would just stop littering, it wouldn't have to be Beautify CNMI that would have to do the job of others," he added. (Jacqueline Dela Cruz)



JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ

From left to right, Saipan Tribune sales manager Waki Absalon, Century Insurance president Dave Sablan, Palau Community Association vice president Norman Mobel and Tan Holdings' Corporate Affairs Office's Ed Arriola.

Tan Holdings donates \$1K to Palau Community Association

Tan Holdings Corp. donated \$1,000 yesterday to the Palau Community Association for a project to build a community center on Navy Hill.

The money will be used to buy materials that will be need-

ed for the center, including cement, wood, hollow blocks, and tinted roofs.

The association has been working for over a year now on the project, which will be located at the former power plant site.

There are about 1,000 Palauans on island and 100 are very active in the association.

"Thank you very much for the contribution and may the Lord bless your company," said Norman Mobel, the association's vice president. Mobel is also assistant operations manager of Saipan Stevedore. (Jacqueline Dela Cruz)



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 50514, SAIPAN, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS

NMHC IFB 08-013

This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.

NMHC IFB08-013

Building Maintenance of NMHC's Housing Units in Saipan

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, are hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the Building Maintenance of NMHC's Housing Units in Saipan.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning Thursday, June 26, 2008, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Central Office on Thursday, July 10, 2008, at 10:30 a.m., at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan. Bidders will have the opportunity to tour the housing subdivisions and inspect several housing units owned by NMHC that will be covered under the proposed contract. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder. Inquiries regarding this solicitation must be addressed in writing to the NMHC Corporate Director at P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, July 11, 2008.

Sealed bids must be marked **NMHC-IFB08-013**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, not later than **10:00 a.m., local time Monday, July 21, 2008**. Bids received after the date and time will not be accepted. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, Monday, July 21, 2008**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **July 21, 2008**, and must be received at Procurement and Supply no later than **July 30, 2008**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at **8:00 a.m., local time, July 31, 2008**. However, if no notice of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m., local time on July 21, 2008**.

All labor on this project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of \$4.05 per hour which took effect on July 25, 2007 as established by Federal law including subsequent increases of \$.50 per hour as announced by the U.S. Department of Labor and/or the CNMI Department of Labor, whichever is higher.

NMHC hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that, in any contacts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small, minority businesses and women's business enterprises will be afforded equal opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, disabilities or national origin.

This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires the successful bidder to the "maximum extent feasible", take affirmative steps to provide training, contracting and employment opportunities and help ensure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents in Saipan.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC.

NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined to be in its best interest. All bids received shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Herman S. Sablan
Director, Division of Procurement & Supply

"NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer"



Mount Carmel School

Post Office Box 500006
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6184/234-7188
Fax No. (670) 235-4751
Email: mtcarmel@vzpacifica.net
Web: <http://www.mtcarmel-edu.net>

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL MCS RFP09-001

Mount Carmel School (MCS) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Food Service Management Companies to run the School Canteen for school year 2008-2009.

The proposal must address the essential requirements as indicated on the RFP Package. RFP packages may be obtained from the Mount Carmel School Business Office on Saipan during working hours (8:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m. and from 1:00p.m. - 4:00 p.m.) except on Holidays. Interested FSMC's are encouraged to provide to Mount Carmel School in writing with a mailing address, e-mail address, and or Fax number in the event that addendums are made to the RFP Package.

All proposals must be received no later than 3:00 p.m. July 15, 2008 at the Mount Carmel School Business Office, located in Susupe, Saipan. The proposal must be in a sealed envelope and facemarked "RFP09-001- MCS Canteen and School Store Lease Attn: Margaret DelaCruz" and submitted to the Business Office.

Mount Carmel School (MCS) reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bid proposal and to award on a single or multiple award which it deems most favorable to the interest of Mount Carmel School. Mount Carmel School also reserves the right to waive any defects, informalities, and irregularities if to do so is in the best interest of MCS.

/s/ Margaret C. Dela Cruz
President, Mount Carmel School, Inc.

Fully Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges

Concorde settles alleged waste violations with EPA

Company to spend \$56K on wind power at SSHS

Concorde Garment Manufacturing Corp. has agreed to a settlement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in a case involving alleged mismanagement of waste materials.

As part of the settlement, Concorde Garment will pay \$15,200 and conduct a beneficial environmental project for improper storage and handling of discarded solvent-based paints, spent paint thinners, and solvent-contaminated wastes at its Lower Base facility in Saipan.

"This facility had significant hazardous waste management problems," said Jeff Scott, Waste Division director for the EPA's Pacific Southwest region. "We are pleased that Concorde Garment is taking steps to assist the community through an environmental project"

The dispute arose after an inspection of Concorde's manufacturing operations on March 5, 2004. EPA said the company failed to adequately label containers of spent solvents and other hazardous wastes. Also, it allegedly failed to train employees to properly handle and manage the facility's hazardous waste, did not make required hazardous waste determinations, and violated other regulations governing hazardous waste management.

"While significant legal defenses regarding liability were raised by Concorde during the administrative proceedings, Concorde ultimately agreed that it was in the best interest of all parties to settle all disputes arising out of the inspection," said Steve Pixley, legal counsel for Concorde.

In addition to the fine, the company will spend up to \$56,000 on an alternative energy project that will provide an additional power source at Southern High School in Saipan.

"The alternative energy project at Southern High School

will be the first non-residential alternative energy project in CNMI and will serve as a pilot for the rest of Micronesia," said John McCarroll Pacific Islands Office Manager for the EPA's Pacific Southwest region. "We are very pleased that Concorde Garment has proposed this project at a time when energy prices are soaring and impacting the economy as a whole."

Golf magazine to feature the NMI in August issue

Golf Masters magazine, which enjoys a circulation of 100,000 copies per month in Japan, will feature Saipan in its August issue. With a primary readership of corporate executives, management level staff and company owners who love playing golf, this is a target publication to promote golfing on Saipan.

Golf Masters is the monthly magazine for golf enthusiasts, featuring information on golf technique, golf courses, rules and other golf information. In their August issue, a 12-page story featuring three or four golf courses on Saipan will be

The contractor for the project, Allied Pacific Environmental Consulting, will be using a wind-powered turbine as the energy source to provide electricity to the school. In addition, the project will be used as a catalyst to develop an alternative energy curriculum at the school, to train students for work opportunities associated with wind power and alternative energy.

inserted. The estimated ad value is \$46,601.

MVA acknowledged the Hyatt Regency Saipan, Mariana Resort & Spa, Coral Ocean Point, LaoLao Bay Golf Resort, Kingfisher, Saipan Country Club and Saipan Sunset Cruise for their assistance in making this media coverage happen.

"We have the most beautiful golf courses in the region," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "Having our golf courses featured in *Gold Masters* magazine is a great opportunity to promote our courses to golfers in Japan." (MVA)

PTI announces new rate plans for GSM on Saipan

PTI is pleased to offer PTI GSM More! rate plans at the same rates as CDMA on Saipan. All More! plans also include free unlimited local texting and free long distance to selected destinations including the United States, South Korea, China, Canada and Hong Kong.

"We listened to our customers and based these new rates and features on our very popular CDMA More! rate plans," said Kathryn Barry, regional marketing manager for PTI.

"Our customers also love the added unlimited local texting feature and the ability to add nights and weekends for only \$17.99. Our 300 minute plan starts at only \$25 and we have plan options for everyone's needs and budget."

For more information, call PTI Customer Care at 682-4PTI, visit PTI Customer Service on Middle Road Chalan LauLau or the new PTI Wireless Express Center in the TSL Building in Garapan. (PTI)

"We are extremely excited about this cutting edge alternative energy project, which we hope will become a model for future energy generation in the entire region. Concorde looks forward to working with Allied Pacific and the CNMI Public School System to finalize this project," said Pixley.

Concorde Garment, a subsid-

iary of Tan Holdings Corp., produced clothing at its Lower Base factory from 1983 until 2006.

The EPA's hazardous waste

ON THE NET

For more information on hazardous waste visit: <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/hazwaste.htm>
<http://www.deq.gov.mp/>

rules require facilities to properly store, label and seal hazardous waste containers. Facilities must also have an EPA hazardous waste generator ID number and properly trained staff, as improperly stored hazardous waste can potentially spill and pose a risk to workers and the environment. The hazardous waste must be properly disposed of and transported with an EPA hazardous waste shipping manifest. (Saipan Tribune)



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES

The Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities (Council) is soliciting applications for the position of Executive Director. The Council is a private, non-profit corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. Its mission is to foster awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth. The Council is governed by a 13-member Board of Directors that represents a broad cross section of the community.

The Executive Director is responsible for developing, implementing and evaluating a wide variety of humanities programming in consultation with the Council's board of directors. Other major duties include supervising a two person staff, administering an annual budget of approximately \$300,000 and coordinating with a wide variety of public and private organizations and the general public to realize the Council's goals and objectives. A detailed description of the Executive Director's duties is available at the Council's office in Kings Plaza in Dandan.

Applicants for this position must possess strong leadership, administrative, writing, computer and inter-personal skills, be able to work effectively in a multicultural environment, be able to prepare and review grant applications and annual budgets, and be knowledgeable about the history and cultures of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Micronesian region. Although a Master degree is preferred, applicants must possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited post-secondary institution and have experience administering federal programs. The starting salary ranges from \$42,000 to \$45,000 depending on qualifications and experience. The Executive Director serves at the pleasure of the Board of Directors.

Applicants are invited to submit their letter of intent, resume, and the names (with current contact information) of at least three references to Dr. Debra T. Cabrera, Chair, Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities, P.O. Box 506437, Saipan, MP 96950 (no faxes or e-mails, please). Complete application packages must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on July 31, 2008 to be considered. The Council may choose to interview applicants before making a final selection. The Council is an equal opportunity employer.

SHIPPING SCHEDULE



MARIANA
EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD Kelang	ETD Fuzhou	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung
MELL SINGAPORE	011E	6/28 SAT	6/26 THU	6/16 MON	7/3 THU	6/17 TUE	6/21 SAT	7/4 FRI	6/30 MON	6/29 SUN	6/24 TUE	6/15 SUN	6/30 MON	7/4 FRI	7/5 SAT
STADT HAMBURG	019E	7/5 SAT	7/3 THU	6/23 MON	7/10 THU	6/24TUE	6/28 SAT	7/11 FRI	7/7 MON	7/6 SUN	7/1 TUE	6/22 SUN	7/7 MON	7/11 FRI	7/12 SAT
MELL SENOKO	007E	7/12 SAT	7/10 THU	6/30 MON	7/17 THU	7/1 TUE	7/5 SAT	7/18 FRI	7/14 MON	7/13 SUN	7/8 TUE	6/29 SUN	7/14 MON	7/18 FRI	7/19 SAT
MELL SINGAPORE	012E	7/19 SAT	7/17 THU	7/7 MON	7/24 THU	7/8 TUE	7/12 SAT	7/25 FRI	7/21 MON	7/20 SUN	7/15 TUE	7/6 SUN	7/21 MON	7/25 FRI	7/19 SAT
STADT HAMBURG	020E	7/26 SAT	7/24 THU	7/24 THU	7/31 THU	7/15 TUE	7/19 SAT	8/1 FRI	7/28 MON	7/27 SUN	7/22 TUE	7/13 SUN	7/28 MON	8/1 FRI	8/2 SAT
MELL SENOKO	008E	8/2 SAT	7/31 THU	7/31 THU	8/7 THU	7/22 TUE	7/26 SAT	8/8 FRI	8/4 MON	8/3 SUN	7/29 TUE	7/20 SUN	8/4 MON	8/8 FRI	8/9 SAT
Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD	ETA Saipn	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA GenSan	ETA Davao	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Kobe	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SINGAPORE	011E	7/11 FRI	7/12 SAT	7/12 SAT	SKIP	7/16 WED	7/18 FRI	7/19 SAT	7/22 TUE	7/25 FRI	7/26 SAT	7/31 THU	7/29 TUE	7/27 SUN	7/30 WED
STADT HAMBURG	019E	7/18 FRI	7/19 SAT	7/19 SAT	7/22 TUE	7/23 WED	7/25 FRI	7/26 SAT	7/26 SAT	8/1 FRI	8/2 SAT	8/7 THU	8/5 TUE	8/3 SUN	8/6 WED
MELL SENOKO	007E	7/25 FRI	7/26 SAT	7/26 SAT	SKIP	7/30 WED	8/1 FRI	8/2 SAT	8/5 TUE	8/8 FRI	8/9 SAT	8/14 THU	8/12 TUE	8/10 SUN	8/13 WED
MELL SINGAPORE	012E	8/1 FRI	8/2 SAT	8/2 SAT	8/5 TUE	8/6 WED	8/8 FRI	8/9 SAT	8/12 TUE	8/15 FRI	8/16 SAT	8/21 THU	8/19 TUE	8/17 SUN	8/20 WED
STADT HAMBURG	020E	8/8 FRI	8/9 SAT	8/9 SAT	SKIP	8/13 WED	8/15 FRI	8/16 SAT	8/19 TUE	8/22 FRI	8/23 SAT	8/28 THU	8/26 TUE	8/24 SUN	8/27 WED
MELL SENOKO	020E	8/15 FRI	8/16 SAT	8/16 SAT	SKIP	8/20 WED	8/22 FRI	8/16 SAT	8/23 SAT	8/22 FRI	8/30 SAT	9/4 THU	9/2 TUE	8/24 SUN	9/3 WED

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Website: www.ctsi-logistics.com

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Inbound
Direct line (670) 236-2422

Jaime P. Salazar
Outbound
Direct line (670) 236-2410

Robert Reyes
Sales and Marketing
Direct line (670) 236-2403



Island Snapshots



4TH OF JULY PROMO

Henedena Dela Cruz receives the second prize of \$200 cash from a Basula Produkto representative at the Basula Produkto Recycling Facility on Santa Remedios Road, Tanapag. Dela Cruz's receipt was raffled and her stub was picked to win the second prize.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Kimberly S. Indalecio receives the third prize of \$100 cash from a Basula Produkto representative at the Basula Produkto Recycling Facility in Tanapag. Basula Produkto wants to thank the people of Saipan for supporting their local recycler!

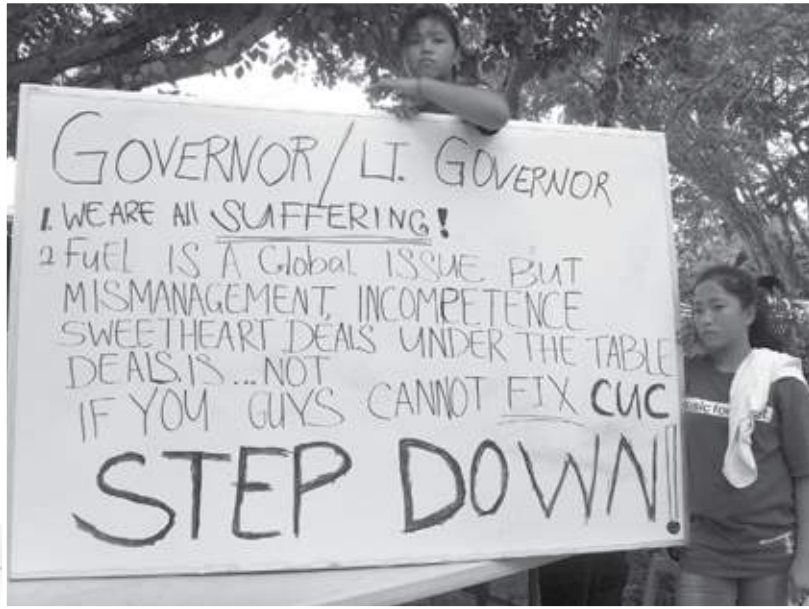
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy birthday to Christopher Cabrera, who celebrates his 29th birthday today, July 9. Greetings come from all his friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



PROTEST RALLY

The Taotao Tano community group calls for the governor's resignation in a rally on Capital Hill Monday.

AGNES E. DONATO

DELEGATE BID

Delegate candidate John Oliver Gonzales poses with his campaign manager, retired judge Edward Manibusan, after filing his candidacy papers signifying his intent to run for the congressional position in November's election.

AGNES E. DONATO



PEPSI WINNER

Pacific Trading Co.'s Mike Babauta hands over a Playstation 3 to Lolita Hernandez, who won the game console in Pepsi's Twist and Win summer promotion. The Pepsi Twist and Win promotion will run until Aug. 30.

Consumers can instantly win \$20, \$50, \$100, a PlayStation 3, iPod and laptop computers. There are over 50 chances to win \$20, 10 chances to win \$50, five chances to win \$100, three PS3s, three iPods and two laptop computers. Winning caps are located throughout the island of Saipan and Tinian.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 09, 1999

Businessmen seek delay of takeover oversight hearing

In a move to save its limited resources, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the Hotel Association of Northern Mariana Islands and the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association have sought a postponement on the scheduled July 27 oversight hearing by the U.S. Senate Energy and Resources Committee. Chamber President Kerry M. Deets said the delegates from the business sector are concerned over the expenses they would incur in joining the trip since they would have to go back to Washington for another hearing on Sept. 16, 1999 called by the House Resources Committee headed by Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska).

PSS: No teacher shortage this time

There will be enough teachers in public schools when classes open this August, a Public School System official said yesterday. "We have fulfilled our recruitment needs by 80 to 85 percent. The remaining 15 to 20 percent vacancies will be filled before schools open," said Charlie Kenty, head of the PSS Human Resource Office.

Price ceiling for betel nuts proposed

Saying they have become luxury to most consumers, Rep. Timmo Olopai wants to put in place a price control on betel nuts sold in stores and impose tax on its importation. The legislator blamed foreign businessmen for jacking up the retail price of the betel nuts over the past five years by importing these products and selling them at exorbitant prices.

July 09, 2001

Census 2000: NMI home to 70,000 people

Not even a 60 percent increase in population count helped elevate the Commonwealth's classification from a rural to an urban area, as results of the Census 2000 disclosed the CNMI being home to only 69,221 people. According to the Census 2000 report released by the US Department of Commerce, Saipan is home to 62,392 people while Rota and Tinian have a population of 3,283 and 3,540 respectively.

\$2M sought for nursing program

The Department of Public Health is seeking \$2 million in additional funds to support its nursing program. The amount requested is apart from existing funds that the agency has reserved for the future hiring of off-island nurses. After recently recovering from a crisis in nurse shortage, Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez said DPH continues to survey its financial resources in the area of hiring nurses directly, instead of channeling it through manpower agencies.

Ban on election day campaign approved

The House of Representatives has passed legislation barring election candidates from campaigning and displaying materials within 500 feet of any polling precinct on November 4. House Bill 12-398, which seeks to amend 1 CMC Section 6423 and 6705 (a) (b)(c), was approved by the lower house Thursday, in time for the November general elections.

July 09, 2002

Typhoon after typhoon for NMI

Days after typhoon Chata'an devastated Rota and caused destruction in other parts of the Northern Marianas, another weather disturbance-tropical storm Halong-continues to gain strength and speed as it approaches the region and is expected to hit the islands tomorrow, based on a weather forecast released by the Emergency Management Office. EMO Director Rudolfo Pua said emergency response teams are bracing again for the possible battering of the islands, even if rehabilitation efforts-especially in Rota-have not been implemented in full scale.

CPA prepares for approaching storm

The Commonwealth Ports Authority yesterday ordered the strict implementation of typhoon measures, as it prepares for another weather disturbance reportedly approaching the Northern Marianas and expected to hit Saipan on Wednesday. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas said all tenants at the Commonwealth's airports and harbors have been advised of the approaching typhoon-international name Halong-that currently raps Pohnpei.

Marianas Public Land Trust

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Marianas Public Land Trust is inviting the general public of Tinian to attend a public hearing for a proposed Tinian Public Market.

The hearing will be conducted as follows:

Date: July 7, 2008

Venue: Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria

Time: 6:00 PM

/s/ ALVARO A. SANTOS
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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AP The Associated Press

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EDITORIAL

Torture, Made In China

Ronald Reagan had a point when he called the Soviet Union the "evil empire." What nearly every American understood during the Cold War -- even those who virulently disagreed with the Gipper -- was that communist regimes around the world were willing to treat human beings in ways that were profoundly immoral. We also firmly believed that we were different. Yes, the United States made mistakes, and individual Americans occasionally committed unconscionable acts, as humans everywhere are prone to do, but our system had the requisite checks and balances to correct and punish bad behavior when it occurred.

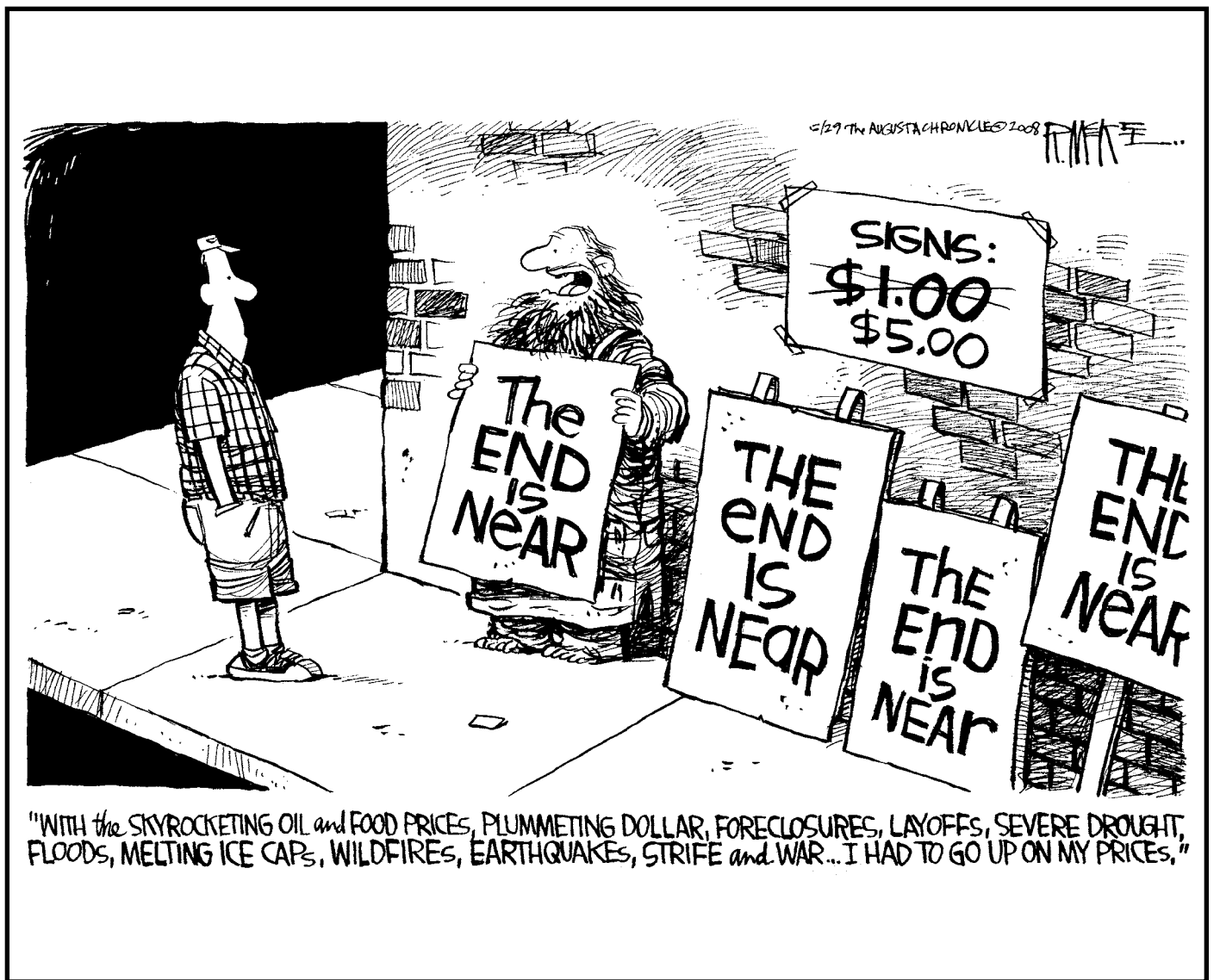
That faith has worn thin. After years of legalistic flim-flamming by the Bush administration about what constitutes torture, it has yet to declare waterboarding illegal, though U.S. officials say they no longer do it. After years of claiming that the detainees at Guantanamo Bay were being treated humanely, the administration now admits that some were waterboarded. And after years of administration insistence that U.S. interrogation methods were inherently superior to those of our enemies, now comes the revelation by the New York Times that military trainers at Guantanamo Bay taught an interrogation class based on communist Chinese torture techniques. They reportedly relied on a 1957 Air Force study of the effects of Chinese torture methods on American prisoners during the Korean War.

To those who still insist that our government must retain the right to inflict a little pain on terrorists who deserve it anyway, if the situation is truly dire, 15 top U.S. interrogators earlier this month replied: It doesn't work. Not only does it produce false confessions, it may aid the enemy cause.

"The use of torture and other inhumane and abusive treatment results in false and misleading information, loss of critical intelligence and has caused serious damage to the reputation and standing of the United States," concludes a statement signed for the international advocacy group Human Rights First by 15 senior interrogators with long experience in the FBI, CIA or U.S. military intelligence. "The use of such techniques also facilitates enemy recruitment, misdirects or wastes scarce resources and deprives the United States of the standing to demand humane treatment of captured Americans."

That's the opinion of many of this country's top experts in their field, the people whom the rest of us must trust to sift useful intelligence from tall tales told by prisoners to make it stop. We ignore their advice at our peril.

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times



Militarization of Guam meets few protests

By PAUL LEARY
THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DAILY NEWS

Editor's Note: The following was first published in The Virgin Islands Daily News on Monday, July 7, 2008.

Although Guam is located far away from the Virgin Islands, it is often paired with us in the minds of the federal government. Both are unincorporated territories of the United States. Unlike other such U.S. islands as Samoa and the Northern Marianas, we do not seek to evade the implications of that status.

Samoa, for instance, rejects American citizenship in hopes of retaining such traditional cultural practices as land ownership and local political representation based on chiefly titles.

The Northern Marianas argues that the commonwealth status it gained in 1976 is a bilateral agreement that cannot be changed unilaterally by Washington, including such features as restriction of land ownership to native inhabitants.

Ironically, unlike Samoans, the Northern Marianas' citizens are also U.S. citizens. However, to maintain their claim of non-territorial status, the Marianas do not have a delegate to the U.S. Congress, as do all the other insular areas, including the non-citizens of Samoa. Go figure!

As for our neighbor, Puerto Rico, one of its major political parties - the Popular Democrats - claims, like the Marianas, that the "commonwealth" (estado libre asociado) attained in 1954 confers a measure of self government that goes beyond that of a mere territory. While they have not succeeded in making that argument in Washington, they continue to win both local elections and - narrowly - status referenda.

So it seems that the USVI and Guam, while not necessarily happy with all that unincorporated territory means, accept the fact that that this is what we are. Reflecting that agreement, Congress often pairs us, as it did when it conferred both the right to elect a congressional delegate and to draft our own constitutions in the 1970s.

But while both Guam and the Virgin Islands have many legal similarities in the American system, they are profoundly different in several ways, including the presence of the U.S. military on their soil. In the V.I., the only time we see large numbers of people in uniform is when the Navy calls. Their visits are both brief and welcome, as the crews spend freely and boost the economy. But we do not have any significant military bases or permanent personnel.

In contrast, about one third of Guam is owned by the military. It provides facilities for some of the most important American installations in the Pacific, housing thousands of Air Force and Navy personnel and

their families. And this is about to increase dramatically.

Since World War II the Japanese island of Okinawa has been the home of a major U.S. Marine base. Conquered after a bloody battle in 1945, Okinawa's inhabitants were never very happy with the continued American presence. There were disturbing incidents of abuse of Okinawan civilians and a sense that the Americans continued to act as conquerors, not as guests.

Mass demonstrations were regularly mounted, especially after a particularly nasty event, such as a rape. The Japanese government was embarrassed by the situation, but it was a price it was willing to pay for the strategic alliance it had forged with the United States. Now all that will begin to change.

The U.S. is spending \$15 billion to turn Guam into its new Pacific fortress. By 2014, around 8,000 Marines will move there from Okinawa. The relocation will remove the irritant that Okinawa represents to U.S.-Japanese relations. In recognition of this, Japan will contribute \$6 billion to facilitate the move. The Pentagon also believes that Guam, as a U.S. territory, will be a more stable environment as it addresses such strategic issues as the rise of China and the North Korean nuclear threat.

The population of Guam is roughly the same as the Virgin Islands. The addition of so many military families is bound to have a major impact. The same issues that caused strain in Okinawa cannot be expected to disappear. You might expect a local outcry against this intrusion. After all, think of Vieques and the way that Navy exercises there ignited major protests in Puerto Rico, leading to the closure of both the Vieques facility and the neighboring Roosevelt Roads base. But that does not seem to be the case for Guam.

Robert Underwood was a former Congressional Delegate from Guam, a candidate for governor of that island, and presently the head of the university. He is known for championing the rights of the indigenous Chamorros and for supporting changes to territorial status that would provide them with greater protection. He is in a good position to assess local reaction. In an email message, he indicated that there is no significant local reaction opposing the increased military presence. The main response appears to be focused on the economic benefits it will bring.

Why is this? Perhaps the reason is rooted in Guam's history during the Second World War. It was occupied by Japan from December 10, 1941 until American forces returned on July 21, 1944. The last phase of the Japanese occupation was particularly brutal, and the battle to regain control a vicious one.

Ever since, Guamanians have felt a deep gratitude for the American military.

It remains to be seen if that gratitude will continue in the face of the expansion under way.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Dating advice from a business consultant

Or Turn Your Passion....into passion!

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

So let's get to the point. How's your love life?

Let's face it. Most everyone wants a little companionship, someone to relate to, or maybe just a warm body to connect with every now and then. And if you don't have that already, how's your quest or wait working out? Need some advice? Never fear. Your local Saipanpreneur coach is here.

OK, I know what you're thinking. But who better than a goal-driven, task-oriented, get-it-done coach to help you achieve the goal of finding that special someone. The goal here, as I see it, is to make a connection, and foster a mutually satisfying interaction with someone you find adequately appealing. (That's business-speak for finding a date.)

Today's advice can be used by anyone, but was written with a particular group in mind: transplants from the states partnering with people from this side of the world. If you're not originally from this region, then it's important to accept that things are different here. The roles are different. The expectations are different, and thus partnering up with someone for love and romance may require a little remedial training. Here are a few suggestions for first *being*, and then *finding* that special someone. It doesn't matter whether your intended partner is from Korea, China, Thailand, Japan, Russia or the Philippines.

There are some universal truths that transcend all.

Decide

Step one: decide. In many respects, this will be an entirely different game than one you're used to playing. So, you'll have to really decide if you want to play. Decide if you're willing to see things differently, feel things differently, act differently and have different expectations. If you've come here looking for what you had back home, you may be disappointed. Remember, the only reason we are ever unhappy in life is because we have expectations that are not in alignment with reality. Decide. Are you in or are you out?

Identify your Niche

The eclectic mix of cultures and nationalities here can be overwhelming, but it can offer a unique opportunity to discover what you truly like and look for in another person. Don't be disappointed if you just can't seem to hit it off with members of a particular group.

While the American flag may wave here, implying the melting pot concept, it is still really more of a salad, where individual elements still retain their identity and flavor. Unlike the melting pot in the states, most people here are still very much connected to their cultures, nationalities and world views.

What this means is, you might find that your own personality, culture and world view make you more compatible with one group than with another. Sure, we'd all like to think we're worldly, and indeed many of us visitors and vagabonds who find ourselves here are more open-minded than most. However, there are elements of how we see ourselves, our relationships, and the world at large that we may want reflected in our partners. In simpler words, you may find that you're more compatible with Japanese than with Koreans, Chinese more than Thai, etc. It's neither good nor bad. It may just be a reality of life.

Fish where the Fish you**Favor Frequent**

It just makes sense. You may need to adjust where you do your hunt—er, I mean hanging out, if you want a certain type of prey, er, I mean person. Cultural norms, interests, mobility and geographic limitations can all influence where you should and what you'll find when you cast your pole in the waters! San Antonio? Managaha? Garapan? Club V? Decisions. Decisions.

Respect the Culture

I'll re-phrase it this way: Eliminate notions of cultural superiority. You and your partner are free to choose—as equals—which, if any, of your respective cultures and languages will dominate, but there's no reason why one, English, or Western culture, for example is more preferred than another. You—the English speaker—and your Japanese-speaking partner may just as easily decide to speak Japanese to each other, which would put you on the learning end of this cultural exchange program. Don't be a cultural snob.

Learn the Language

Once you determine which niche you want to specialize in, (of course, all the while being open to that special magic and chemistry that transcends all boundaries), the next step is to learn the language.

Seems simple enough advice, but you'd be surprised how many guys opt to pass simply because the girl of their dreams doesn't speak English.

On the other side of the room, women may be afraid to make eye contact or break the ice simply because they are petrified of what comes next: the speaking! They may feel very insecure about their lack of ability to speak English, and so keep themselves hidden and unapproachable. Your job, especially if you're the male in this game, is to learn a few words in the tongue of your niche of choice to help things along. "Hello," "How are you?" "What is your name?" "My name is _____." are good places to start.

And, with the host of free learning sites online, (Chinese-pod.com, Englishpod.com, Japanese101.com, et. al.) there's no excuse!

Sure, dictionaries, electronic translators and translating chaperones may be a bit more energy than you've had to invest in the past, but, hey this is a different game, after all.

And language doesn't just mean spoken or written. There is a whole new set of nonverbal communication skills that comprise the languages you may have to learn. Speaking of which...

Find Different Ways to Communicate

For many, perhaps especially writers and intellectuals, language is a comfort zone where emotions and feelings remain unexpressed and underexposed behind protective walls of words.

I've found that the most liberating thing about cross-cultural relationships is discovering how to reach common grounds of understanding and acceptance without the burden of language. Without a bevy of words to cloud the issues, you can get to the bottom line in your communications much more quickly. Without linguistic nuances and shades of meaning that often color our thoughts, we find ways other than words to communicate. Think about it. (Take the preceding paragraph, for example. I just went through a plethora of words to communicate a sentiment that, in person, might be accomplished by simply holding hands.)

Experts say people vary in the ways they express love, and the ways they wish another's love to be expressed. Some like to be shown, some like to be touched, some like to be told.

Without the familiar words of a common vocabulary, you and your partner may be forced to express your attraction, your interest and love in different modalities than you're used to. Awkward at first, perhaps. But a fun adventure too, if you do it right!

Have Fun

Above all, this adventure into the

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

amorous should be fun! Use it as an opportunity to learn about yourself and others. Discover what's important. Develop a new level of tolerance and acceptance.

Remember, in the search for romance and passion, it's more important to BE that special someone, before you can FIND that special someone. In following these tips and opening yourself up to new ways of being with a new set of perceptions, expectations, tolerances and boundaries, you become the person others will be attracted to.

Compatibility Quiz

And speaking of fun, here's a little quiz you can take with your significant other (if language allows), to find just how compatible the two of you really are. It's been said that it isn't ethnicity, language, culture or religion that makes two people ultimately compatible. It's the similarity of values and particular world views that are of ultimate importance.

According to the originator of this compatibility quiz, you need to match your partner in at least four of the twelve categories in order for your relationship to stand the test of time and the clash of cultures. (Even these 12 may be biased towards a western world view, so take it with a grain of Gomasio)

1. Do you have a high need for COMPANIONSHIP or are you a LONER?

(eg. Me: Loner; You: Companionship = no match)

2. Idealism—Do you see the world as basically EVIL or is the world GOOD?

3. Are you emotionally INTENSE or deep OR are you BLAND?

4. Do you prefer SPONTANEITY or THE PLANNED?

5. Libido—Do you have a high need for SENSUALITY/high sex drive or NOT?

6. Nurturance: Do you like

to NURTURE others? Is taking care of others our role and responsibility, or do you prefer that people around you be INDEPENDENT?

7. Materialism: Do you prefer the CHIC or do you prefer SIMPLICITY?

8. Are you an EXTROVERT OR INTROVERT?

9. Is ESTHETICISM (art/nature/beauty/scenery) important to have in your life or NOT?

10. Activity level: Do you like to MOVE around or STAY PUT? Sleep in or get busy out in the world?

11. Subjective well-being: Are you an OPTIMIST or a PESSIMIST?

12. Is INTELLECTUALISM important or NOT to you and your mate? Avid reader, up on current events, smart, etc.?

Final note: And for heaven's sake, be patient!

Hope you enjoyed this little dating diversion from the usual business and motivational topics. And just so the editor of this newspaper doesn't accuse me of straying too far from the usual theme of my column, I'll recap the fundamentals: (Decide, Find Your Niche, Fish where they Swim, Respect the Culture, Learn the Language, Have Fun, Be Patient) and tell you that this advice pretty much applies to matters of profit as well as passion!

Any questions?

Note: For more tips on acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!

Note: There's a new blog in town! Check out www.blackson-saipan.com

■■■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Letters to the Editor

Clarifying citizens' rights to vote, representation

On the Supreme Court's recently published opinion regarding reapportionment and redistricting: I am respectful of the time and effort that went into the production of the slip opinion in the petition filed regarding reapportionment and redistricting. What I have read so far is very interesting and thought provoking.

It will take some time to absorb all of the information and follow the logic used to move

from one point to the next and follow the reasoning of the majority's final conclusion.

There seem to be many different ways in which the U.S. Constitution and federal higher court precedence applies or does not apply to the legal structure of the CNMI, due to interpretation of provisions in the Covenant. Making one's way through this maze is fascinating, complex, and it seems that there is no single or

clear overarching path that can be followed. Even if we are not bound to observe U.S. Constitutional provisions and federal higher court opinions regarding voting equality, should we?

I acknowledge the judiciary's reluctance to make what they considered to be a policy change, deferring to the history of decisions made in the past by the Legislature. It is clear to me, though, that the conversation regarding

reapportionment and redistricting should not end here. The rights we enjoy as citizens are precious, and what is more precious than the right to be heard, equally, by casting our votes? The U.S. democratic process is dynamic, it changes. If it did not, women and African Americans would not enjoy the right to vote today.

What would be the representational consequences for our U.S. citizens in the event of a

buildup of military personnel on Tinian, or Pagan? Could we have a Northern Islands senator representing three eligible voters, if a thousand military personnel are staged or stationed on Pagan? Under current policy, that could very well be the case. Military personnel almost exclusively retain the voting rights of their home states.

These and many other unanswered questions point to the

need to continue the work to examine, and perhaps more clearly define CNMI law pertaining to representation and voting rights of our citizens.






The responsibility now falls with the Legislature to go deeply into this subject and get it settled.

Sen. Maria Fraca T. Pangelinan
Capital Hill

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

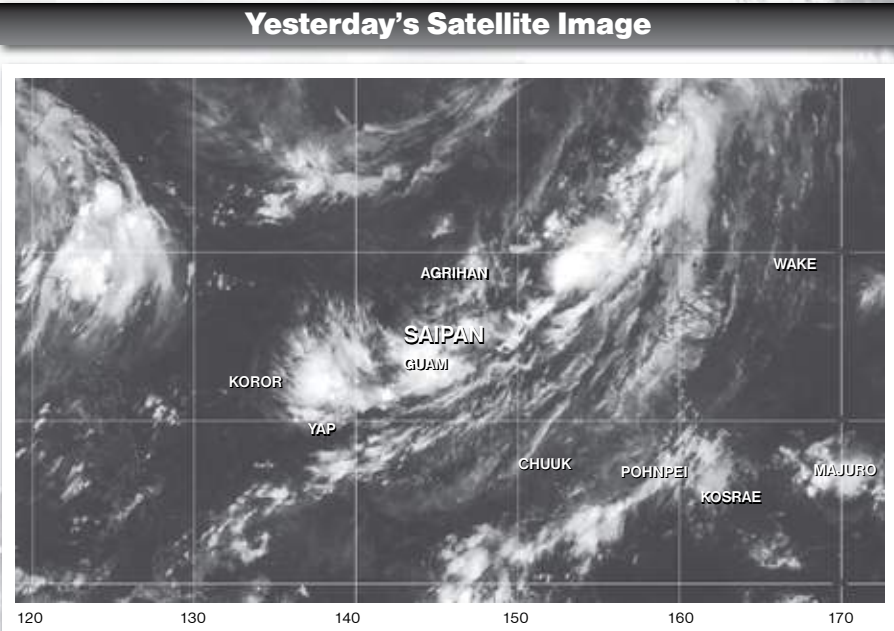
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. South winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲89° ▼77°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78	▲87° ▼78°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼79
Palau	Cloudy	▲87 ▼78
Yap	Cloudy	▲87 ▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼78
Pohnpei	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼79
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲88 ▼77
Majuro	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼79

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Sunny	▲55 ▼43
Beijing	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼73
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼79
Honolulu	Showers	▲84 ▼75
London	Rain	▲66 ▼54
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲86 ▼65
Manila	Thundershowers	▲90 ▼79
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲59 ▼47
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90 ▼78
New York	Thundershowers	▲90 ▼72
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼72
Paris	Rain	▲68 ▼61
Pusan	Cloudy	▲87 ▼74
Rome	Sunny	▲84 ▼60
Salem	Sunny	▲92 ▼52
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲79 ▼56
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲86 ▼72
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲79 ▼72
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲90 ▼71

Tides		
Saipan Harbor		
12:25AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
6:59AM Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
12:08PM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
6:26PM Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A low to mid-level trough reaches southwestward from 25N150E through a large circulation centered east of Agrihan near 20N150E then continues southwestward to end at 10N130E. Widespread rain scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring over a large area near the trough axis within an area bounded by a line from 25N158E to 23N152E to 20N145E to 15N140E to 15N135E to 12N138E to 14N150E to 14N158E to 20N162E to 25N162E back to 25N158E. This area includes the Marianas Islands. Converging southerly winds south of the trough axis are producing scattered showers southeast of Koror and Yap within 125 miles of a line running northeast from 3N135E to 7N143E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms associated with a weak disturbance can be found southeast of Chuuk and over Pohnpei within an area bounded by a line from EQ150E to 3N160E to 6N162E to 10N156E back to EQ150E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over the Marshall Islands within 125 miles of a line extending eastward from 8N164E to 7N167E to 7N174E.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	5:53AM	6:52 PM	Today	11:23AM	11:29 PM
Thursday	5:53AM	6:52 PM	Thursday	12:12PM	
Friday	5:53AM	6:52 PM	Friday	1:01PM	12:05PM
Saturday	5:54AM	6:52 PM	Saturday	1:51PM	12:43PM
Sunday	5:54AM	6:51 PM	Sunday	2:42PM	1:23PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.

■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 4, 2008			
DEPARTURES		ARRIVALS	
Saipan-Rota		Rota-Saipan	
CO 9313	8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	CO 9598	11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
Saipan-Guam		Guam-Saipan	
CO9317	4:00am 4:50am Daily	CO 9316	2:30am 3:20am Daily
CO9597	8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6	CO9596	7:00am 7:50am Daily
CO9313	8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota	CO9598	10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm 1:20pm Daily	CO9600	10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7
CO9603	3:30pm 4:20pm Daily	CO9602	2:00pm 2:50pm Daily
CO9605	6:30pm 7:20pm Daily	CO9604	5:00pm 5:50pm Daily
CO9599	9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	CO9606	8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita		Narita-Saipan	
NW 099	5:00am 7:40am Daily	NW 076	10:15am 2:55pm Daily
NW 078	8:55am 2:00pm Daily	NW 077	6:25pm 1:30am+1 Daily
NW 075	4:45pm 7:25pm Daily	NW 100	8:45pm 1:25am+1 Daily
Saipan-Osaka		Osaka-Saipan	
NW 083	4:20pm 7:05pm Daily	NW 084	10:30am 3:05pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya		Nagoya-Saipan	
NW 078	8:55am 11:35am Daily	NW 077	9:00pm 1:30am+1 Daily
Saipan-Manila		Manila-Saipan	
CO 895	4:45pm 6:35pm 6	CO 890	9:15am 2:55pm 6
CO 895	6:45pm 8:35pm 3	CO 890	11:45am 5:35pm 3
Saipan-Seoul		Seoul-Saipan	
OZ 604	2:20am 6:00am 1	OZ 605	9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7
OZ 604	2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7	OZ 603	7:40pm 1:10am+1 7
OZ 606	3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	OZ 603	8:10pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan		Busan-Saipan	
OZ 608	3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7	OZ 607	9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
Guam-Manila		Manila-Guam	
CO 891	6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror	CO 894	11:20am 4:55pm 2,7
CO 893	6:30am 8:05am 6	CO 894	7:45pm 1:20am+1 6
CO 893	8:25am 10:00am 2,7	CO 892	9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap
CO 893	5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror	CO 892	10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm 8:40pm Daily	CO 934	10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily
PR 111	6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	PR 110	10:20pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou		Guanzhou-Saipan	
CZ 3008	5:00am 8:00am 2,6	CZ 3007	8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5
Guam-Hongkong		Hongkong-Guam	
CO 909	6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5	CO 910	10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
Guam-Rota		Rota-Guam	
CO 9598	10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	CO 9313	9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)			

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE			
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

Crisis wipes \$1 trillion from financial stocks

NEW YORK (AP)—U.S. financial companies have lost more than \$1 trillion in value this year, and yet another decline on Monday shows concerns aren't going away soon.

Banks and brokerages began the week lower on the same fears that have been proven toxic since last summer in the ongoing credit crisis. The financial sector was hit with a confluence of troubles on Monday: cautious remarks from a Federal Reserve official and new capital concerns at Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae.

The drop in names like Lehman Brothers, Morgan Stanley and Merrill Lynch caused the financial section of the Standard & Poor's 500 index to lose almost \$150 billion in value on Monday, according to the rating agency. That means S&P 500's 85 financial components have lost some \$1.3 trillion since the sector reached a high last October.

Even more startling is that shares of 35 of the companies, which include insurers, have lost more than half their value so far this year. The financial sector used to be the index's main

driver, and many economists believe that the broader market will rise or fall on their health.

"Some would argue that perhaps the sell-off in financials is overdone, but at the same time there is just much uncertainty out there about write-offs, loan losses, and how bad the housing market is," said Jim Herrick, a director of equity trading at Baird & Co. "For a period of time the pain was in the big money center banks, but now it's spreading."

Fannie and Freddie fell sharply after Lehman Brothers analyst Bruce Harting said the two government-backed lenders might need to raise billions of dollars in new capital. Both are facing a proposed change to accounting standards that would require financial services firms move bonds backed by pools of loans, also known as securitizations, off their balance sheets.

If this rule is passed, it would end Freddie and Fannie's primary source of generating new revenue. Harting said Fannie Mae would need to raise \$46 billion in cash to meet capital requirements, while Freddie Mac would need \$29 billion.

Despite economic uncertainty, many Americans still traveling



Travelers line up to pass security as they prepare to board flights Thursday, July 3, 2008, at Miami International Airport in Miami.

PORTLAND, Maine (AP)—High gas prices may mean fewer families will be headed to the beach or the mountains this summer, but rising prices likely won't be keeping wealthy people from missing out on vacation.

Although their stock portfolios may be in decline, wealthy Americans who are less likely to feel the impact of a slowing economy and rising energy and food prices are largely going ahead with their vacation plans even though consumer confidence is at a 16-year low.

Households earning \$100,000 or more have been taking a larger share of hotel rooms since 2000 and now account for about a third of hotel stays, according to D.K. Shifflet & Associates in McLean, Va.

"If you think about the high-income folks in the U.S., the CEOs and others who make a lot of money and have been doing well over the last eight years, they can afford to do that. And they're doing it while they can," said Doug Shifflet, chairman and CEO of the travel research firm.

At a country club outside of Portland, about 150 people spent part of a recent sunny day indoors at a "Luxury Explorers' Showcase" to learn about African safaris, tours of the Amazon and Galapagos, private jet charters and even space tourism.

Organizer Pamela Hurley-Moser said not all of the attendees were loaded with money, but all had one thing in common: They had no intention of canceling travel.



Joshua Persky, left, an unemployed financial engineer, advertises himself to passers-by Tuesday, June 24, 2008 in New York. Persky, wearing a pinstriped suit and an "MIT Graduate for Hire" sign draped over his shoulders, lost his job six months ago as an investment banking consultant.

Oil drops sharply as supply worries subside

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices tumbled nearly \$4 a barrel Monday, erasing many of last week's record gains in a single session as concerns about potential supply disruptions eased.

Light, sweet crude for August delivery fell \$3.92, or about 2.7 percent, to settle at \$141.37 on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Earlier, the contract sank as low as \$139.50, or \$5.79 below Thursday's settlement price.

After the last few weeks' run-up, however, analysts were skeptical that the drop signaled the start of a long-term decline. Prices set records in each of the previous six sessions.

"We're just moving into a

new and higher trading range" of about \$140 to \$146 a barrel, said Jim Ritterbusch, president of energy consultancy Ritterbusch and Associates in Galena, Ill. "We'll probably consolidate there for a week or two ... then probably push back into new record territory."

In the U.S., record retail fuel prices edged even higher as Americans made their way home at the end of the long weekend, typically one of the busiest driving periods of the year.

A gallon of regular gasoline now costs \$4.108, a tenth of a penny more than the previous day's high, according to AAA, the Oil Price Information Service and Wright Express. Diesel

is also at a record, of \$4.801, up nearly a penny.

Americans are now paying more than \$1 billion more for gasoline per day than they did five years ago, according to an OPIS report Monday. In June, the world's largest oil consumer spent about \$47.38 billion on the motor fuel - nearly three times as much as in 2003.

Fred Rozell, retail pricing director at OPIS, said retail gas costs will likely continue to rise. He joined a number of analysts in predicting oil prices still have further to climb, and said that could push prices at the pump up by as much as 25 to 30 cents per gallon more before the end of summer.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Bush, German leader meet on G-8 challenges

TOYAKO, Japan (AP)—President Bush and German Chancellor Angela Merkel pledged Tuesday to keep working together on common problems, but progress appeared slow on reaching a consensus on climate change as the Group of Eight major economies tackled that and other knotty global issues. Merkel expressed optimism as the two leaders met with reporters after a one-on-one meeting before Tuesday's summit session. "I'm very satisfied with the work that has gone on on the G-8 documents, as regards progress on the issue of climate change, cooperation in the area of food and oil," she said. Merkel also said she hoped that international trade negotiators could make progress on restarting long-stalled trade liberalization talks "over the next few weeks to come."

Microsoft backs Icahn's bid to oust Yahoo board

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Microsoft Corp. threw its weight behind investor Carl Icahn's effort to dump Yahoo Inc.'s board, saying Monday that a successful shareholder rebellion would encourage the software maker to renew its bid to buy Yahoo's Internet search engine or possibly the entire company. The unexpected endorsement gives Icahn a carrot to dangle before Yahoo shareholders as he wages an acrimonious

campaign to replace Yahoo's nine directors at the company's annual meeting Aug. 1. It marks the first time that Microsoft has publicly sided with Icahn since the billionaire investor launched his attempted coup nearly eight weeks ago. The two sides decided they could work together after Icahn held "frequent" discussions with Microsoft Chief Executive Steve Ballmer and some of his top lieutenants during the past week, according to a letter that Icahn sent Monday to Yahoo shareholders.

Fed, SEC team up to prevent financial risks

WASHINGTON (AP)—Financial regulators on Monday announced an information-sharing agreement aimed at better detecting potential risks to the U.S. financial system. The pact between the Federal Reserve and the Securities and Exchange Commission should enhance regulatory cooperation between the two agencies, allowing them to more effectively carry out their regulatory duties, officials said. Under the agreement, the two agencies will swap information and cooperate across a number of important areas of common interest, including anti-money laundering efforts, bank brokerage activities as well as on clearing and settling financial transactions conducted by both banks and investment firms. The Fed is the main regulator of banks, while the SEC oversees Wall Street investment firms.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS



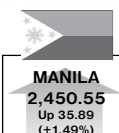
AUSTRALIA
5,033.200
Down 58.500
(-1.15%)



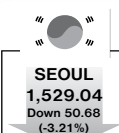
HONG KONG
21,165.41
Down 747.65
(-3.41%)



JAKARTA
2,277.532
Down 26.2861
(-1.14%)



TOKYO
13,036.12
Down 323.92
(-2.42%)



K. LUMPUR
1,127.26
Down 6.88
(-0.61%)



MANILA
2,450.55
Up 35.89
(+1.49%)



SINGAPORE
2,879.59
Down 54.53
(-1.86%)



SEOUL
1,529.04
Down 50.68
(-3.21%)



BANGKOK
722.30
Down 8.26
(-1.13%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
11,231.96
-56.58

NASDAQ
2,243.32
-2.06

S&P
1,252.31
0.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.0471
British Pound	0.5066
Canadian Dollar	1.017
Chinese Renmbi	6.8568
Euro	0.637
Hong Kong Dollar	7.8022
Indian Rupee	43.387
Indonesian Rupiah	9201
Japanese Yen	107
Malaysian Ringgit	3.2615
New Zealand Dollar	1.3291
Philippine Peso	45.807
Singapore Dollar	1.3629
South Korean Won	1031.65
Swiss Franc	1.0272
Taiwan Dollar	30.39
Thailand Baht	33.667

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Mortgage rescue plan draws Senate support

WASHINGTON (AP)—A mortgage rescue plan to save hundreds of thousands of homeowners from foreclosure drew overwhelming Senate support Monday, inching toward passage despite Republican objections. The Senate voted 76-10 to advance the bill, a broad array of housing measures including overhauls of the Federal Housing Administration, the Depression-era mortgage insurer, and government-sponsored home loan giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Its centerpiece is a new \$300 billion FHA program to allow debt-ridden homeowners who are currently too financially risky to qualify for government-backed loans to refinance into safer, more affordable mortgages.

1st Atlantic season hurricane becomes Category 3

MIAMI (AP)—Hurricane Bertha strengthened to a Category 3 storm Monday as it swirled in the central Atlantic, but it posed no immediate threat to land. Forecasters expect the Atlantic season's first hurricane to head toward Bermuda. It was too early to tell whether the storm would hit the island, but residents were urged to monitor Bertha's progress. At 11 p.m. Monday, the hurricane was located 695 miles east-northeast of the Northern Leeward Islands and about 1,085 miles southeast of Bermuda. It was moving west-northwest at about 12 mph. Maximum sustained winds were measured near 120 mph.

Tornado damages homes in northern North Dakota

ROLLA, N.D. (AP)—A tornado tore through several towns in northern North Dakota on Monday, destroying at least one building, damaging others and injuring at least two people, authorities said. The National Weather Service said the tornado was reported in Rolla at 3:30 p.m. Monday. Rolette County Commissioner Eldon Moors, who also is the county's acting emergency manager, said he followed the tornado as it traveled eastward about 20 miles from Dunseith to Rolla. He said it cut a swath of damage about 1 1/2 blocks wide and hit up to 15 homes. Moors said everyone in Rolla was accounted for, but that the north end of the town was "quite a mess."

Convicted husband leads Calif. police to a body

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—A prominent software programmer who had denied having anything to do with his estranged wife's disappearance even after he was convicted of her murder led police Monday to what is believed to be her body, defense attorneys said. The abrupt about-face came just two days before 44-year-old Hans Reiser was due in court to face sentencing on a conviction of first-degree murder returned by a jury in April. The discovery late Monday afternoon came after Reiser, handcuffed to another of his attorneys, William Du Bois, led police through Redwood Regional Park, defense attorney Richard Tamor said. The body was found in a grave about 4 feet by 4 feet, Tamor said. Reiser did not have difficulty locating the spot, the attorney said. "He went right to it."

Derailed train spills coal into Yellowstone River

FORSYTH, Mont. (AP)—A locomotive and 10 coal cars plunged about 50 feet early Monday from a track undermined by high water flow on the Yellowstone River. No injuries were reported, and the unknown amount of coal that spilled into the river was not believed to pose a threat to people or fish. Engineers with Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway had been monitoring the area because of high water flows and the train was traveling at a reduced speed when the ground gave way about 1:15 a.m. Monday, company spokesman Gus Melonas said. The locomotive and a railcar were partially submerged in the river.

McCain, Obama duel on economic fix-it plans

DENVER (AP)—Barack Obama and John McCain agree on this much: The economy is staggering under the Bush administration, and Americans are hurting. But who's to blame and how best to fix it?

Well, they part ways on that, as they made clear in dueling economic speeches Monday on the issue that has taken center stage in their presidential contest.

Obama said that McCain offers a third term of President Bush's policies.

"John McCain's policies are essentially a repeat, a regurgitation of

what we've been hearing from the Republican Party over the last two decades, maybe three," Obama said in St. Louis, where his plane made an unscheduled stop because of mechanical problems that forced him to cancel an appearance in Charlotte, N.C. "It's part of the reason that we're in the situation that we find ourselves in right now."

McCain has been forced into a more defensive crouch because his party has held the White House while jobs, home values, stock prices and consumer confidence have tumbled.

While calling Obama's plans expensive and unwise on Monday, he tried to distance himself from Bush where he could.

"This Congress and this administration have failed to meet their responsibilities to manage the government," McCain said in Denver. "Government has grown by 60 percent in the last eight years. That is simply inexcusable."

He promised to veto "every single bill with wasteful spending."

McCain has said the economy is not his strong suit, and on Monday he seemed eager to show a deeper

understanding of the topic, even as he dismissed the views of some experts.

"Some economists don't think much of my gas tax holiday," he said of his plan to temporarily suspend the federal levy on motor fuels. "But the American people like it, and so do small business owners."

Obama calls that plan a gimmick that will not lower gasoline prices.

The Democratic senator favors tax cuts for middle-class workers and tax increases for top earners. He calls for substantial government subsidies for health care, college, retirement and alternative energies.

Pentagon aims for less deadly cluster bombs

WASHINGTON (AP)—Faced with growing international pressure, the Pentagon is changing its policy on cluster bombs and plans to reduce the danger of unexploded munitions in the deadly explosives.

The policy shift, which is outlined in a three-page memo signed by Defense Secretary Robert Gates, would require that after 2018, more than 99 percent of the bomblets in a cluster bomb must detonate.

Limiting the amount of live munitions left on the battlefield would lessen the danger to innocent civilians who have been killed or severely injured when they acciden-

tally detonate the bombs.

Also, by next June the Defense Department will begin to reduce its inventory of cluster bombs that do not meet the new safety requirements.

The new Defense Department plan comes more than a month after 111 nations, including many of America's key NATO partners, adopted a treaty outlawing all current designs of cluster munitions. The agreement also required that stockpiles be destroyed within eight years.

Opponents have complained that the Pentagon has moved too slowly to reduce the cluster munitions from its inventory.

Cluster bombs scatter hundreds of smaller explosives over a large area, where those bomblets can sit for years until they are disturbed and explode.

U.S. leaders boycotted the May talks, as did Russia, China, Israel, India and Pakistan, all leading cluster bomb makers who cite the military value of the deadly explosives.

At the time, Cmdr. Bob Mehal, a Pentagon spokesman, said the elimination of cluster bombs from the U.S. stockpile "would put the lives of our soldiers and those of our coalition partners at risk."

Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., who has led efforts to outlaw cluster mu-

nitions, said the Pentagon's move is a step back. A defense policy issued by then-Defense Secretary William Cohen in early 2001, Leahy said, called for a similar reduction in submunitions from the cluster bombs by 2005.

"Now the Bush administration's 'new' policy is to wait another 10 years," said Leahy, calling it "another squandered opportunity for U.S. leadership." He said that in wake of the international treaty agreement, the Pentagon's plan to wait another decade before requiring the 99 percent detonation rate cannot be justified.



COOLER WEATHER

Jose Escobedo, with the Glendale, Calif. fire department, works on the area of the Basin Complex Fire in Big Sur, Calif. As some residents were allowed to return home on Monday, forecasters warned that the cooler, damper conditions that have aided recent firefighting efforts would soon turn in favor of the flames. More than 2,000 residents were allowed to return to their homes in Goleta, about 85 miles northwest of Los Angeles. Firefighters had contained 35 percent of the fire in the Los Padres National Forest that is threatening the city.

Study: Military gays don't undermine unit cohesion

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congress should repeal the "don't ask, don't tell" law because the presence of gays in the military is unlikely to undermine the ability to fight and win, according to a new study released by a California-based research center.

The study was conducted by four retired military officers, including the three-star Air Force lieutenant general who in early 1993 was tasked with implementing President Clinton's policy

that the military stop questioning recruits on their sexual orientation.

"Evidence shows that allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly is unlikely to pose any significant risk to morale, good order, discipline or cohesion," the officers states.

To support its contention, the panel points to the British and Israeli militaries, where it says gay people serve openly without hurting the effectiveness of combat operations.

Undermining unit cohesion was a determining factor when Congress passed the 1993 law, intended to keep the military from asking recruits their sexual orientation. In turn, service members can't say they are gay or bisexual, engage in homosexual activity or marry a member of the same sex.

Supporters of the ban contend there is still no empirical evidence that allowing gays to serve openly won't hurt combat effectiveness.

Missing boy is found safe, his dad killed by bus

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)—A desperate five-day search for a 9-year-old boy abducted by his father in Southern California ended in Mexico, where the man died after being hit by a bus and the boy was found safe across town, authorities said Monday.

Ryan Ramos was found alone Sunday in a Mormon church building in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, and arrived in Orange County early Monday, where he was reunited with his family, sheriff's spokesman Jim Amormino said.

He had been missing since Wednesday, when his father, Lonnie Ramos, 46, allegedly shot his estranged wife during a custody exchange and took off with their child.

Gynnae Ramos, the boy's mother, was in good condition Monday at Mission Hospital, where she was recovering from gunshot wounds to the chest, stomach and right eye, Amormino said. Her son was taken to her bedside, he said.

Lonnie Ramos called his father in Washington, D.C., around 11 a.m. Sunday to say that he had left the boy at the church building and that he, too, was in Ciudad Juarez. Lonnie Ramos converted to Mormonism about eight months ago, Amormino said.

The grandfather notified Orange County detectives. Several hours later, Mexican state police contacted U.S. officials with word that an American tourist who strongly resembled Lonnie Ramos had been in critically injured in a traffic accident, Amormino said.

Asia

41 killed in blast outside Kabul embassy

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A bomb ripped through the gates of the Indian Embassy on Monday, killing 41 people and scattering bodies and pools of blood across some of Kabul's most protected streets. Afghanistan quickly blamed Pakistan, India's archrival.

The suicide car bomber followed a diplomat's vehicle and detonated the explosives at the building's main entrance, only 30 yards from where dozens of Afghans had lined up to apply for visas. The blast was the deadliest in Kabul since the fall of the Taliban in 2001. Nearly 150 other people were wounded.

Women and children browsing nearby shops were among the victims who lay on the ground, bloodied and in agony, crying for help. Debris covered the pavement, including sandals, a wrecked bicycle and heaps of twisted metal.

The embassy is on a busy, tree-lined street near Afghanistan's Interior Ministry that is protected on both ends by police, though the checkpoints are easily driven past. The 8:30 a.m. explosion rattled much of Kabul and kicked up gray dust that shrouded the bodies of the dead and enveloped the survivors - a monochromatic coating broken only by the crimson blood of the wounded. The blast blew cloth-



An Afghan police officer along with an Indian Embassy guard, second right, stand at the Indian Embassy in central Kabul, Afghanistan, Monday, July 7, 2008.

ing off many victims.

President Hamid Karzai condemned the bombing and said it was carried out by militants trying to rupture the Afghan-India friendship. He told the Indian prime minister during a phone conversation that Afghanistan

would do all it could do to identify the attackers.

The Afghan Interior Ministry hinted that the attack was carried out with help from Pakistan's intelligence service, saying the blast happened "in coordination and consultation with some of

the active intelligence circles in the region."

Pakistani Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani said Tuesday that his country's intelligence agency played no role in the bombing.

"We want stability in the

Experts: Abu Sayyaf still get foreign funds

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Al-Qaida-linked militants in the Philippines continue to get significant funding from foreign donors despite a crackdown aimed at stopping the flow of cash that finances bombings and other attacks, two terrorism experts said Monday.

"There is no evidence that terrorist financial flows to the Philippines have dried up," Rohan Gunaratna, a Singapore-based terrorism expert, told reporters on the sidelines of a Manila conference on terror financing.

But he said the militants also use extortion and kidnappings for ransom as a means of supplementing the foreign funding,

which isn't always enough to carry out all of their planned terrorist attacks in the country.

Philippine military and police officials have said that the Abu Sayyaf, a small but brutal group accused of involvement in bombings, beheadings and kidnappings, suffered a major financial setback when its chief, Khaddafy Janjalani, and his presumed successor, Abu Sulaiman, were killed in 2006 and 2007, respectively.

The two leaders had established connections with Middle Eastern and Asian financiers, something most other Abu Sayyaf commanders have failed to do, the officials said.

The fundraising task, however, has been taken over by a little-known Abu Sayyaf commander, Yassir Iqbal, who developed links with Middle Eastern financiers when he went there for terrorist training in the past, said Gunaratna, author of "Inside al-Qaida: The Global Network of Terror."

"As long as he is alive and as long he is active, the Abu Sayyaf will continue to get money from Saudi Arabia," Gunaratna said of Iqbal.

Top Indonesian terrorism suspect Umar Patek, who has been hiding in the southern Philippines, also gets funds from Indonesia-based

groups such as Jemaah Islamiyah that are used by the Abu Sayyaf and other Muslim rebel groups for terrorist training and attacks in the Philippines, Gunaratna said.

National police chief Avelino Razon declined to comment on Gunaratna's claim, saying a lack of information on terror financing has made it hard for authorities to assess the flow of money to local militants.

But he said that in the past some of those funds have been monitored and frozen with the help of foreign intelligence agencies.

Razon acknowledged the Abu Sayyaf remains a key security threat.

S. Korea: Nuke talks with N. Korea to resume

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Negotiations on North Korea's nuclear program will resume this week for the first time in nine months, South Korea's nuclear envoy said Tuesday.

The talks had been on hold since October due to a dispute over North Korea's obligation to hand over a declaration of its nuclear program. Then last month, Pyongyang turned in a partial declaration and destroyed the cooling tower at its main Yongbyon nuclear complex.

Host China was to announce that the six-nation talks - which

include China, Japan, Russia, the U.S. and the two Koreas - would resume Thursday, Seoul's chief nuclear negotiator Kim Sook said before he departed to the Chinese capital for preparatory meetings.

The talks are expected to focus on how to verify the North's declaration.

In response to the North's submission of the declaration, the United States announced it would remove the North from a list of state sponsors of terrorism and also relaxed some economic sanctions against the

communist nation.

But signaling potential difficulties in the negotiations, the North said last week it will not take further steps to dismantle its nuclear program until the U.S. and its other negotiating partners provide it with promised fuel oil and political benefits.

North Korea on Tuesday also rejected any possibility of summit talks with the South after South Korean President Lee Myung-bak said he was willing to meet to speed up the North's dismantling of its nuclear programs.

The North's Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland said it was "preposterous" for Lee to suggest such a meeting, accusing Seoul's conservative president of overturning previous agreements made between his predecessors and leader Kim Jong Il.

Lee "totally negated and ignored the summit meetings and declarations which were unanimously hailed and supported by the whole nation and world," the committee said in a statement, carried by the official Korean Central News Agency.

With a month to go, still some unfinished Olympic business

BEIJING (AP)—With one month to go before the Olympics open on Aug. 8, China's work is hardly complete.

The government needs to meet its pledge to deliver clean air in one of the world's most polluted cities, and must finish two new subway lines and a railway line. The 31 venues in Beijing are ready, and most have been for months.

But the most difficult promise to keep for the authoritarian

around the city of 17 million.

Access to spots like Tiananmen Square—who will be allowed in, when and under what conditions—is also a battleground with Chinese officials fearing the iconic sites could be used as a TV backdrop by pro-Tibet protesters or the spiritual movement Falun Gong.

This issue should come to a head again this week when broadcasters, the IOC and games organizers meet Wednesday in Beijing. This is a fol-



Drivers stand near the cars during gridlocked traffic in the central business district, Tuesday, July 1, 2008, in Beijing, China.

government may be allowing reporters—as many as 30,000 are expected—to work freely as they have in other Olympics. This was a pledge China made seven years ago in winning the bid.

Television networks like NBC—it has paid billions for Olympic broadcast rights—and the International Olympic Committee have been at odds for months with Chinese security officials, fighting to clarify the rights of satellite trucks to move freely

low-up to a contentious meeting in late May when IOC and broadcast officials criticized Beijing organizers for bureaucratic delays that could compromise TV coverage.

"I think this free reporting will be a problem for everyone," said Johannes Hano, East Asia bureau chief of Germany's ZDF television. "They will stop you even if you have permission. It will be the biggest problem. There is no freedom of press as they promised."

World

WORLD BRIEFS

G-8 'positive' on outlook despite oil, food prices

RUSUTSU, Japan (AP) -- Leaders from the Group of Eight industrialized powers say they're deeply concerned about rising oil and food prices but remain "positive" about the outlook for the global economy. In a communique released Tuesday, the second day of a three-day summit, the G-8 leaders also urged an increase in oil production and refining capacity to counter soaring prices. They also are calling for improved energy efficiency and diversified sources of energy. The G-8 is made up of the U.S., Japan, Germany, Britain, France, Italy, Canada and Russia.

Unstoppable ex-hostage revels in freedom in France

PARIS (AP)—Freedom tastes sweet and Ingrid Betancourt is lapping it up with the same drive and determination that kept her alive in the Colombian jungle for six years, sometimes chained to a tree. Five days after being rescued along with three Americans and 11 Colombians and three days after coming to France, Betancourt, who has dual nationality, is ebullient, and tireless. She is meeting with officials, a former professor, clinching a deal to write a play and giving interviews nonstop. The 46-year-old, who was a cause celebre in France as a captive, is a hero today, portrayed as an icon of courage and an inspiration. It was the French campaign to free Betancourt, captured while campaigning for Colombia's presidency in 2002, that drew international attention to the hundreds of hostages held by leftist rebels. Freed, Betancourt is keeping up the drumbeat.

EU lawmakers scold Italy for Gypsy fingerprinting

STRASBOURG, France (AP)—European Union lawmakers on Monday condemned Italian plans to fingerprint tens of thousands of Gypsy adults and children, calling it a discriminatory action that smacked of Nazi Germany. Legislators called for an EU-wide policy that would help integrate Gypsies into mainstream society. Italian Interior Minister Roberto Maroni, a member of the anti-immigrant Northern League party, said last week that fingerprinting was needed to fight crime and identify illegal immigrants for expulsion. Italian officials have been blaming Gypsies for rising crime. Members of the European Parliament said the plan smacked of Nazi methods.

UN names butterfly reserve as world heritage site

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The Mexican government says UNESCO has added a monarch butterfly reserve in southern Mexico to its list of World Heritage sites. Mexico's Foreign Relations Department says the reserve located in the states of Mexico and Michoacan was declared a natural heritage site by the U.N.'s World Heritage Committee meeting in Quebec City. Each September the butterflies begin a 3,400-mile (5,470-kilometer) journey from the forests of eastern Canada and parts of the U.S. to the central Mexican mountains. The voyage is considered an aesthetic and scientific wonder. But illegal logging and development threaten a delicate migratory route that has spanned across a million square miles (2.6 million square kilometers) for some 10,000 years.

Iraq raises timetable for US withdrawal

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq's prime minister said Monday his country wants some type of timetable for a withdrawal of American troops included in the deal the two countries are negotiating.

It was the first time that Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has explicitly and publicly called for a withdrawal timetable - an idea opposed by President Bush.

He offered no details. But his national security adviser, Mouwaffak al-Rubaie, told The Associated Press that the government is proposing a timetable conditioned on the ability of Iraqi forces to provide security.

The White House said it did not believe al-Maliki was proposing a rigid timeline for U.S. troop withdrawals.

"Any agreement would not have any hard time-tables for withdrawal, but could include the desire by the U.S. and Iraq to withdraw troops based on conditions on the ground," National Security Council spokesman Gordon Johndroe said.

"I know that Prime Minister al-Maliki has said that he doesn't want a precipitous withdrawal because of the security consequences," Johndroe said in Toyako, Japan, where President Bush is attending the G-8 summit.

Al-Maliki said in a meeting with Arab diplomats in Abu Dhabi that his country also has proposed a short-term interim memorandum of agreement rather than the more formal status of forces agreement the two sides have been negotiating.

The memorandum "now on the table" includes a formula for the withdrawal of U.S. troops, he said.

"The goal is to end the presence (of foreign troops)," al-Maliki said.

Some type of agreement is needed to keep U.S. troops in Iraq after a U.N. mandate expires at year's end. But many Iraqi lawmakers had criticized the government's attempt to negotiate a formal status of forces agreement, worried that U.S. demands would threaten the country's sovereignty.

U.S. officials have said little publicly about the negotiations. Adm. Michael Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, did not comment directly on the specifics when asked about it on a trip to Baghdad.

"We'd all like to see U.S. troops get out of here at some point in time," Mullen said. "However, from a military perspective I need the laws and the regulations and the agreements from the government of Iraq in order to continue operations beyond the 31st of December of this year."

With the latest moves, Iraq's government appeared to be trying to blunt opposition in parliament to any deal.

Al-Maliki also could be trying to avoid parliament altogether. He has promised in the past to submit a formal agreement with the U.S. to the legisla-

tive body.

But his spokesman indicated Monday that the government might feel no need to get approval from parliament for a shorter-term interim deal.

"It is up to the Cabinet whether to approve it or sign on it, without going back to the parliament," said spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh.

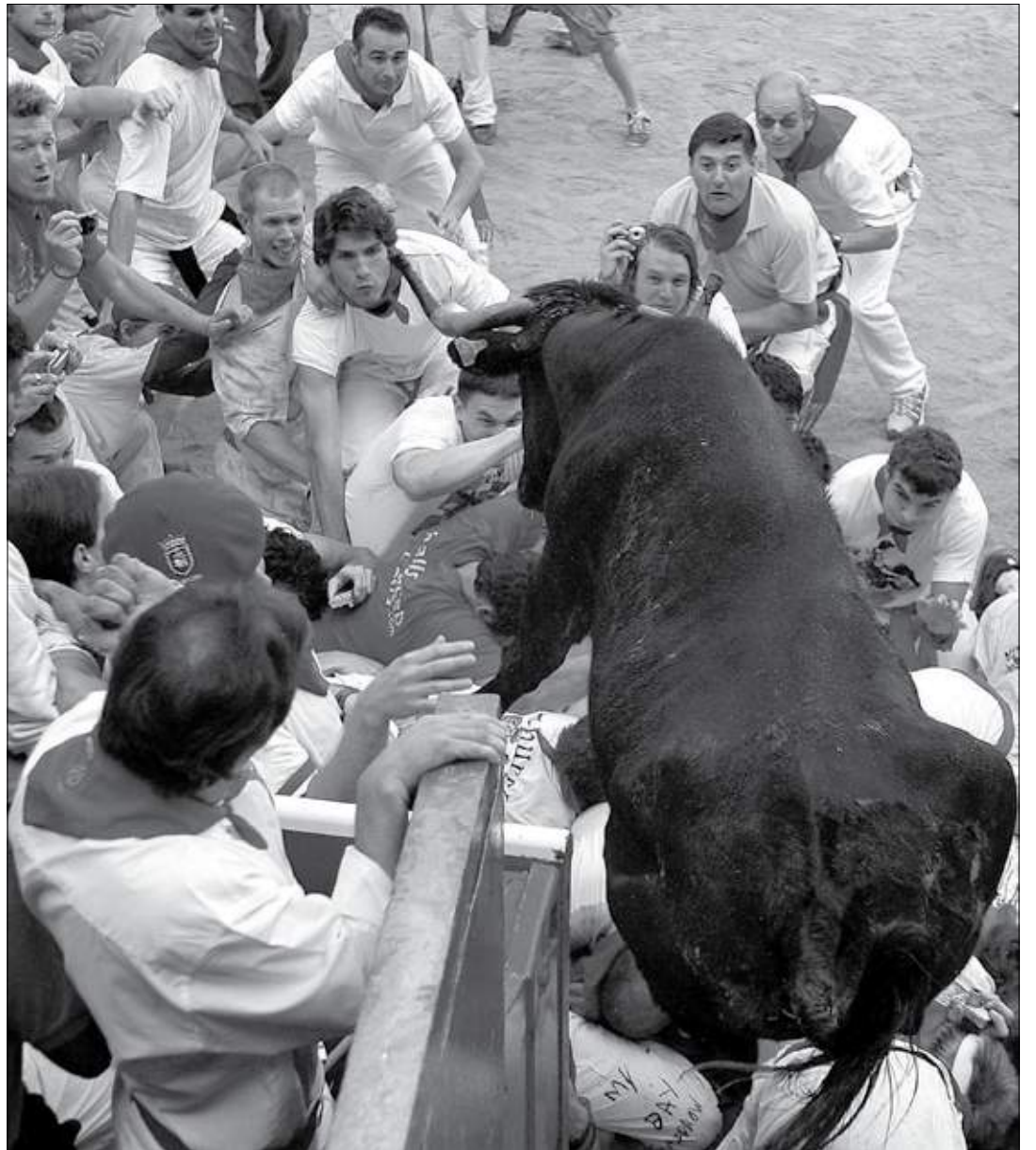
Legal experts said the form of the deal was less significant than its substance.

"You could theoretically include everything in a memorandum of understanding that you could in a

formal status of forces agreement," said Michael Matheson, an expert on international law at George Washington University Law School.

The Bush administration has said it doesn't need congressional approval even for a full status of forces agreement - a position criticized by some U.S. lawmakers.

The contentious issues have been U.S. authority to carry out military operations in Iraq and arrest the country's citizens, along with legal immunity for private contractors and control of Iraqi air space.

**RUNNING OF THE BULLS**

A bull jumps onto revelers in the bullring during the San Fermin festival in Pamplona, Spain, Monday, July 7, 2008. The bulls are set loose in the bullring after the running of the bulls at the San Fermin festival. The Spanish Red Cross said 13 people were injured, with head, rib or other injuries from falling or getting trampled.

AP

England church backs women bishops, risks division

LONDON, England (AP)—The Church of England's ruling body voted its support Monday for women to become bishops, a move that risks further division because it lacked accommodation for traditionalists opposed to the idea.

The decision after hours of debate among leaders of the British church came even as the Anglican church worldwide wrestles with the more contentious issues of a gay clergy and the blessing of same-sex marriages.

One bishop broke down in tears at the meeting of senior British church leaders in York, in northern England, as he described his distress at the church's lack of willingness to accommodate the traditionalists.

"I feel ashamed," said the Right Rev. Stephen Venner, Bishop of Dover, who is in favor of women bishops. "We have talked for hours about wanting to give an honorable place to those who disagree. We have been given opportunities for both views to flourish. We have turned down every, almost realistic opportunity for those who are opposed, to flourish."

More than a dozen other Anglican churches

around the world have authorized women to serve as bishops. The Episcopal church, the Anglican body in the U.S., is led by a woman, the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori.

Hundreds of traditionalists have threatened to leave the British church if sufficient safeguards were not put into place for those who objected. Advocates of women in the episcopate had argued that any concessions would effectively make women second-class bishops.

The synod—composed of bishops, clergy and laity - rejected compromise proposals for new "super bishops" who would cater to objectors. Some traditionalists believe church leaders should be men, as was Jesus and the 12 apostles.

The Archbishops of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, said he did not want to limit the authority women bishops had within the church.

"I am deeply unhappy with any scheme or any solution to this which ends up, as it were, structurally humiliating women who might be nominated," he said.

Both sides conceded that tradition of male-only bishops would be changed, and the lengthy debate

centered on what accommodation would be given to dissenters. The governing body postponed a final decision by agreeing to draw up a code of practice due next year.

Church of England officials say it is unlikely that any woman would be consecrated as a bishop before 2014. The church has ordained women as priests since 1994, but hasn't allowed them to become bishops.

The women's ordination vote also might complicate Anglican relations with the Roman Catholic Church, which does not ordain women. Leaders of the two traditions have been meeting regularly in an effort to find unity.

But as difficult as the issue is, the differing views of the Bible and homosexuality have been more divisive to the overall communion, a 77 million-member family of churches that trace their roots to the Church of England. It is the third-largest grouping of churches in the world, behind Roman Catholics and Orthodox Christians, and has always held together different views.

Campus Life

Middle schools toning down graduation ceremonies

By **TONY BARBOZA**
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

SANTA ANA, Calif.—Commencement at this Santa Ana school was a serious ordeal. Boys had to wear ties. Girls' dresses required shoulder straps at least 2 inches wide. Families brought balloons and flowers and decorated their cars with white shoe polish. Five rehearsals ensured flawless filing in and out of the auditorium by students in red gowns.

But if something did go awry, it was hardly the end of the world. After all, they were only leaving middle school.

At schools like Spurgeon Intermediate in a hardscrabble neighborhood in Orange County, graduation is a time of pomp and ceremony. And, officials and parents concede, there is resignation to the fact that some students will never make it through the 12th grade. Administrators cautiously have maintained the tradition but only while also urging parents to be restrained and save the climactic celebrations for future graduations, like those in high school or even college.

Schools throughout the country in recent years have eliminated or scaled back eighth-grade graduations, concerned that over-the-top ceremonies too closely resemble high school graduations and imply finality rather than a transition to further education.

It is a serious concern in cities such as Los Angeles with dismal high school graduation rates. Although state dropout statistics are notoriously hard to pin down, more than one-third of the students in the Los Angeles Unified School District—about twice the state average—will not make it through their senior year, and graduation rates at the lowest-performing schools hover near 40 percent. In the neighborhood around Spurgeon, nearly four out of 10 students do not complete 12th grade, state figures show.

The ceremonies take on a deeper significance and sometimes become a source of pride in cities with large His-



LOS ANGELES TIMES

A student wears rhinestone-encrusted heels for "promotion" at Spurgeon Intermediate School in Santa Ana, Calif. Schools nationwide have dropped or scaled back eighth-grade graduations.

panic immigrant communities such as Santa Ana, where many parents did not make it past eighth grade themselves.

Officials here have tried to temper the occasion by no longer referring to it as graduation. Instead, said Spurgeon Principal Robert Laxton, it is called "promotion," because "this isn't the end of the line; we are promoting them to high school."

^(Begin optional trim)

That attitude is widespread.

In Long Beach, eighth-graders get decked out in their Sunday best but do not sport gowns at their "promotionals."

In San Bernardino, students attend a no-frills "promotion" with only a certificate and a few words from their principal.

"It's not a milestone, it's a benchmark," district spokeswoman Maria Garcia said.

And starting with next year's sixth-grade class, the Los Angeles Unified School District will rename middle school graduations "culmi-

nation activities," with exacting standards for who can participate, and will present "certificates of completion" instead of diplomas.

At Spurgeon's promotion ceremony last week, families packed a stuffy high school auditorium snapping pictures and breaking into applause when their children's names were read as they walked across the stage. The band played "Pomp and Circumstance," the valedictorian spoke and school administrators handed out gold-hued certificates and academic awards.

Valerie Hopkins, 31, said part of what justified a five-hour drive to see her youngest sister graduate from Spurgeon was the lingering thought that it could be her only chance.

"We want to go through a ceremony because it makes us feel proud," she said, holding a small bouquet of flowers for her sister, Emily Rivera. "She wants to graduate high school and go to college, but that's still a long time, and you don't know what could happen in those years."

But officials were eager to qualify it as a nongraduation.

"You are really the class of 2012," school board member Rob Richardson told students.

"This is not a graduation," board member Audrey Yamagata-Noji said in Spanish.

The canopy of brightly colored foil balloons awaiting the now former eighth-graders outside, however, suggested otherwise. "Congratulations Grad," they read.

Years ago, Santa Ana school district officials had eighth-graders wear gowns at the ceremonies as a way to bring uniformity and tone down the pageantry that prevailed in the 1980s and '90s, said Yamagata-Noji.

"We had something that was supposed to be a few steps above a regular assembly, and you had girls in evening gowns and boys in tuxedos," she said. "It just became very competitive, ridiculous and out of proportion."

Parents also worry that too much showiness could send their children

the wrong message.

"Not everyone goes on to graduate from high school," said Maria Arroyo, whose daughter Kelsey—the oldest of three—just graduated from Spurgeon, achieving the highest level of education in her family in the United States. (Maria, who grew up in Mexico, was educated only until fourth grade.) By forgoing the balloons, gifts and parties common among her neighbors, she hoped to signal that she expected her daughter to work hard to graduate from high school.

Laxton, the principal, hopes families are saving the expense and effort for future graduations.

"Before, maybe the message was: You've reached a plateau," he said. "We don't see that anymore, so I think it's progressed."

Lizbeth Silva, 13, an honors student promoted from eighth grade, said too much celebration could unduly reward students who are being moved along to high school even though they have failed classes. They might not have the work ethic and drive to graduate from high school, she said. "It's like getting their hopes up," she said.

Teachers say they struggle to impress on their students how much harder they will have to work to make it through high school. There will be an exit exam, and they will not graduate if they fail classes, they tell them.

Rogelio Duarte, whose daughter Elizabeth graduated from Spurgeon last week, agrees that the message should be one of continual self-improvement.

"I try to motivate her to always be looking for the next thing," he said, seated in the packed high school auditorium where the ceremony was held.

So after the ceremony, Duarte's family wasn't off to a graduation bash but to a modest dinner at Denny's, he said.

Although Spurgeon's ceremony had most of the elements of its 12th-grade graduation equivalent, one item conspicuously was missing: caps. So at the end, students flung rolled-up programs in the air to mimic the cap-tossing ritual.

They'll have to wait until high school for the real thing.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Green Meadow registration opens

Green Meadow School registration for school year 2008-2009 is now open! School starts Aug. 11, 2008

The school offers a program for K3 to 4th Grade, ABEKA Curriculum, highly qualified teachers, and limited number of students for an ideal teacher-students ratio

Other services:

■ After-school care

11:30am to 5:30pm (K3 to K5)

2:30pm to 5:30pm (1st to 2nd Grades)

■ Saturday reading program

For more information, please call 235-2185 (School) or 235-6452 (Day-care). (PR)

NMC English Placement Test

The Northern Marianas College will be

conducting an English placement test on the following days:

■ Aug. 6 1pm-4pm Room D-1

■ Aug. 7 5pm-8pm Room D-1

■ Aug. 11 5pm-8pm Room D-1

■ Aug. 20 5pm-8pm Room D-1

■ Aug. 21 8am-11am Room D-1

There will be no admittance to the testing room after the starting time.

Those who wish to take the test must bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils.

There is a \$25 fee for the English Placement Test that must be paid in advance at NMC's Finance Office (Monday-Friday, 9am - 4pm). Students will not be admitted to the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for either the placement test fee or the NMC application fee). Payment for the application fee will cover the English placement test fee.

If you have any questions, call Mark Haag at the Languages & Humanities Dept. at (670) 234-5498 ext. 1733 or 1212. (PR)

Free computer classes at library

The Joeten Kiyu Public Library is now conducting free basic computer and Internet classes for all students until Aug. 30, 2008.

Class size is limited, so interested students may contact us at 235-7329 or 235-7322 for more information. (PR)

WSR Elementary School notice

All parents and guardians are being informed that the William S. Reyes Elementary School Office will be closed July 31-Aug. 8.

Student registration is still ongoing. If

your child is not registered, come by the office to register you child/ren. Registration will close on Aug. 11. Registering your child early will ensure that his/her school entrance is not interrupted.

The required student uniforms for school year 2008-2009 are on sale at the office. If purchased by June 27, a set of five (top and bottom) is \$108. If purchased after June 27, the set will cost \$115. Parents are also welcome to buy the uniforms individually.

WSR notebooks and yearbooks are also on sale at the office for \$2 each.

For more information, call the office at 237-3542 or Mrs. Villagomez at 287-3542 or 287-3807, or email at villagomezl@pss.cnmi.mp. (PR)

Tinian Jr. Sr. High School calendar

Summer 2008 School Information

HONORS ENGLISH

■ Start Date August 4, 2008

■ End Date August 29, 2008

Registration forms are available at the front office. (PR)

Sr. Remedios school registration opens

The Sister Remedios Early Childhood Development Center has started open registration for School Year 2008-2009.

Sister Remedios ECDC offers two choices for children between ages 3 and 5 years old:

■ A regular school day – 7:30am to 11:30am, or

■ A regular school day *plus* afternoon DAY CARE – 7:30am to 5pm

For more information, call 234-6247 between the office hours of 7:30am and 5pm. (PR)

Life & Style

ATMs, spitting bans: Olympic Beijing blossoms

By JOHN LEICESTER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BEIJING (AP)—Faced with my blank look of incomprehension, the taxi driver took a deep breath and tried again.

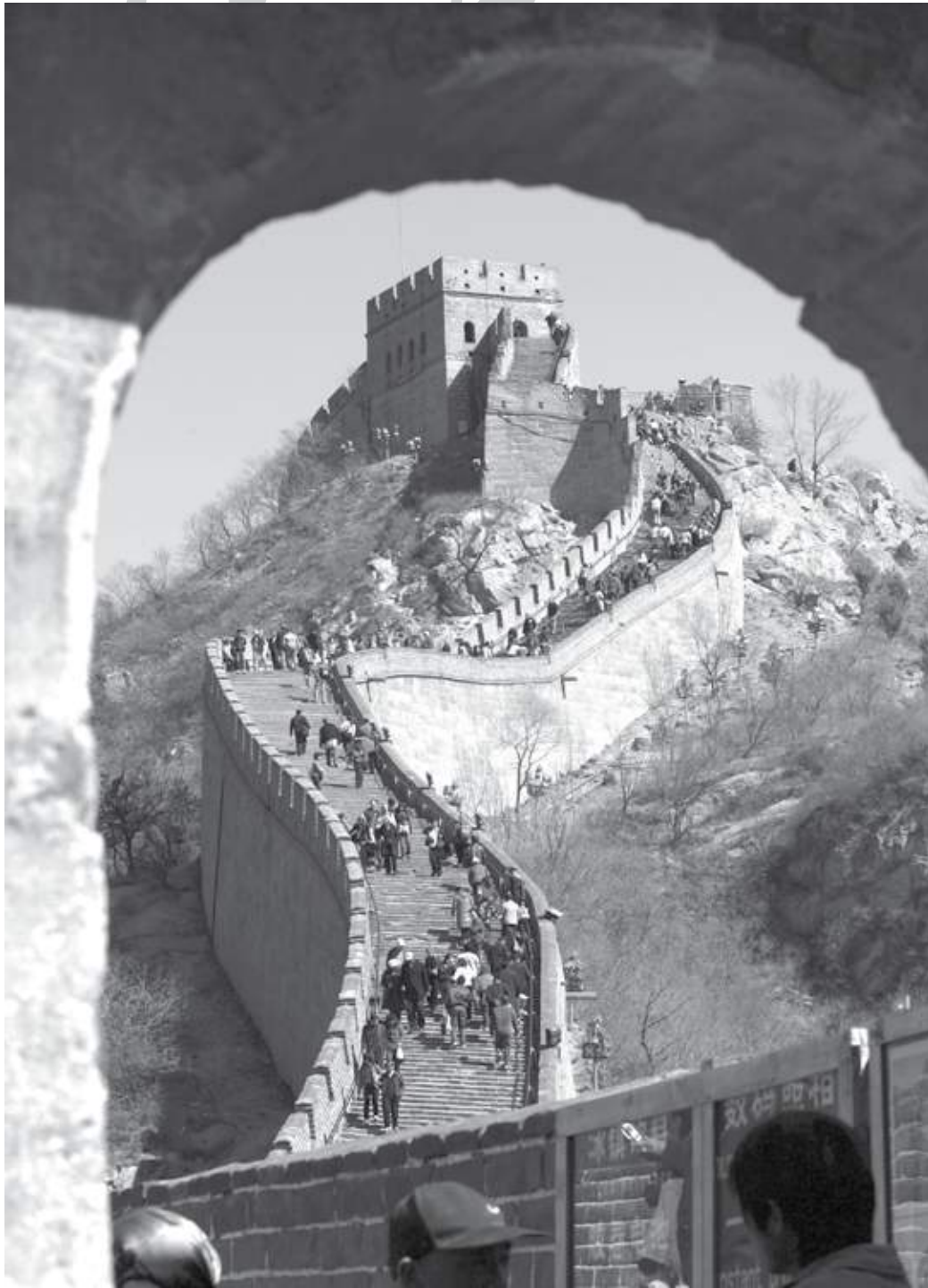
“Ha-pi-tu-mi-te-yu,” he intoned.

towers. The ancient capital has taken on an edgy, neon-electric 21st-century feel.

You have to search harder, in back alleys that the wreckers’ balls have yet to reach, for the quiet, intimate village-like atmosphere that long set Beijing apart from more cosmopolitan

Hong Kong and Shanghai. In smoothing the rough edges, some charm has been lost.

First-timers and those like myself who haven’t been here for a while may find the new Beijing a bit of a jolt. Who knew that the world had so many construction cranes, or produced so



Visitors walk the Great Wall of China, Thursday, March 13, 2008, in Badaling, near Beijing.

Wow, I thought, six years out of Beijing have turned my once almost fluent Chinese to mush.

Then, it hit me. This was English. “Happy to meet you?” I asked.

He beamed proudly.

Give Beijingers this much: They sure want Olympic visitors to feel at home.

In the seven years since the Olympic movement anointed Beijing as host of the 2008 Summer Games, “makeover” doesn’t begin to describe the transformation of the capital.

English-language and anti-spitting lessons for the masses. Entire neighborhoods ripped down and rebuilt. Cutting-edge Western architects let loose to create futuristic landmarks amid the forests of gleaming new



Tourists visit the Forbidden City in Beijing Thursday, June 26, 2008. Once the home of China’s emperors, the former imperial palace has been preserved as a major tourist attraction.



Tourists get a ride on a pedicab through a hutong, or alley, in Beijing, China, Wednesday, June 11, 2008.

much concrete, glass and steel?

The shock of witnessing such voracious change leaves one wondering whether the rest of the world can compete with a waking power as hungry as China. From touchdown at Beijing International Airport, with its new Terminal Three, the world’s largest, everything seems designed to impress.

All the modernization makes Beijing easier to visit: ATMs on many blocks, cool art galleries in old Soviet factories, hang-outs for backpackers, swanky hotels for the well-heeled, late-night shopping, more clubs than even the most insomniac reveler could get through in a weekend.

The taxis are clean, the buses are new, and there are more subway lines.

Restaurants are plentiful and generally clean, offering all varieties of Chinese cuisine and many foreign ones - a turnaround from a generation ago when food was scarce and eateries few and dingy.

A nice touch: Many now display color photos of their dishes. No more point-and-hope

ordering from menus that often used to be only in Chinese, and where menus are in English, far fewer mistakes. A favorite from the old days, a hole-in-the-wall whose menu offered fried carp with the “a” and the “r” reversed. That eatery, like many

asks you to move on, there’s a fair chance he’ll be polite and understandable.

A pre-Olympic “Good Manners Campaign” promoted courtesy and orderly queuing and frowned on swearing, spitting and littering in public. One



Shoppers walk on Wangfujing Street, one of the primary shopping centers in Beijing, China, Monday, June 30, 2008, in Beijing.

old haunts, has now gone, replaced by an office building.

For sightseeing, new landmarks compete for time and attention with older marvels, like the sprawling and ancient Forbidden City and its gate featuring a giant portrait of Mao Zedong - one of the few visible reminders that this is, at least nominally, still a communist country.

The Olympic architectural jewel is the 91,000-seat, \$450 million National Stadium which Beijingers call the Bird’s Nest because of the latticework of steel beams wrapped around the exterior. It will host the opening and closing ceremonies and track and field events.

The massive security Chinese officials are rolling out poses an Olympic-sized question: Will it kill off the fun, feel like prison, seeing guys in uniform across the city? Perhaps. But the upside is that if a police officer

of the Beijing government’s slogans, according to state media, was: “Spitting kills even more than an atomic bomb.” Paper spit bags have been passed out. In three weeks here in May and June, I didn’t hear anyone noisily clearing their throat in public - a once common sound.

Beijing authorities have also given English lessons to 400,000 people, state media say. Most taxi drivers, hotel employees and all Olympic volunteers have received etiquette and English training. More than 10,000 police officers have received basic work-related “police English” and even some Japanese, Russian and Arabic training.

Among the phrases taught: “Welcome to Beijing, the host city of the 2008 Olympic Games. I recommend visiting the Great Wall; it is one of the seven wonders of the world.”

Disability gives photographer a fresh perspective

By **RACHEL BECKMAN**
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Photographer Kevin Connolly is used to people staring at him. The 22-year-old Montana native was born without legs, and he gets around on a skateboard, propelling himself with his hands.

“Before pity, empathy or sympathy, there’s a moment of shock and curiosity,” Connolly says. “It’s mostly just slack-jawed: What’s that?”

In 2007, Connolly traveled

around the world and took 32,728 pictures of people staring at him. Fifteen of his photos are on display in the Kennedy Center’s Hall of States. He calls it “The Rolling Exhibition.”



THE WASHINGTON POST

Photographer Kevin Connolly was born without legs, and he gets around on a skateboard. To make people feel comfortable staring, like this “Man and Girl; Reykjavik, Iceland” shot in 2007, Connolly put his camera near his hip and looked away.

Video-game news: Best of 2008, so far

By **LOU KESTEN**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

E3, the video-game industry’s big trade show, is next week, and you’ll be hearing a lot about all the new software coming between now and Christmas. But there’s a bit of a lull until Aug. 12, when “Madden NFL 09” unofficially marks the beginning of the fall game season. July is a good time to catch up on some of the games you may have missed. Here are the best of the year so far:

1. “Grand Theft Auto IV” (Rockstar, for the Xbox 360, PlayStation 3): The latest episode of “GTA” has its flaws, particularly in the storytelling department. But living a life of crime has never been more fun, thanks to much tighter gameplay and an exquisitely detailed vision of a decaying metropolis.

2. “Lost Odyssey” (Microsoft, for the Xbox 360): The epic tale of immortal mercenary Kaim is

a delight for fans of classic role-playing games.

3. “The World Ends With You” (Square Enix, for the Nintendo DS): This adventure set in modern Tokyo is the most innovative RPG in years.

4. “Metal Gear Solid 4: Guns of the Patriots” (Konami, for the PS3): It may be more of a movie than a game, but it’s a dazzling finale for one of gaming’s most fascinating sagas.

5. “Professor Layton and the Curious Village” (Nintendo, for the DS): Charming characters wrestle with clever puzzles in this beautifully written and illustrated gem.

And the worst? So many terrible games have been rushed out for Nintendo’s Wii that it’s hard to pick on just one. I’ll go with Konami’s “Target: Terror,” which combines repetitive gameplay, hideous graphics and laughable acting in a package that’s so bad it’s almost ... well, no, it’s just awful.

Rich, poor, young and old all stare at Connolly in photos from 15 countries, including Japan, France and Malaysia. In Romania, a man in religious garb chats on a cellphone and looks at Connolly with a confused expression. In the Czech Republic, two castle guards in light blue uniforms march at attention, looking straight ahead. Connolly’s camera catches a third guard’s eyes glance downward at him.

To make people feel comfortable staring at him, Connolly held the camera near his hip and looked in the opposite direction. That way, people wouldn’t fear getting caught. Because he was unable to use the camera’s viewfinder, he memorized how to frame shots from his street-level perspective. He shot most of the photos while in motion; thus, “The Rolling Exhibition.”

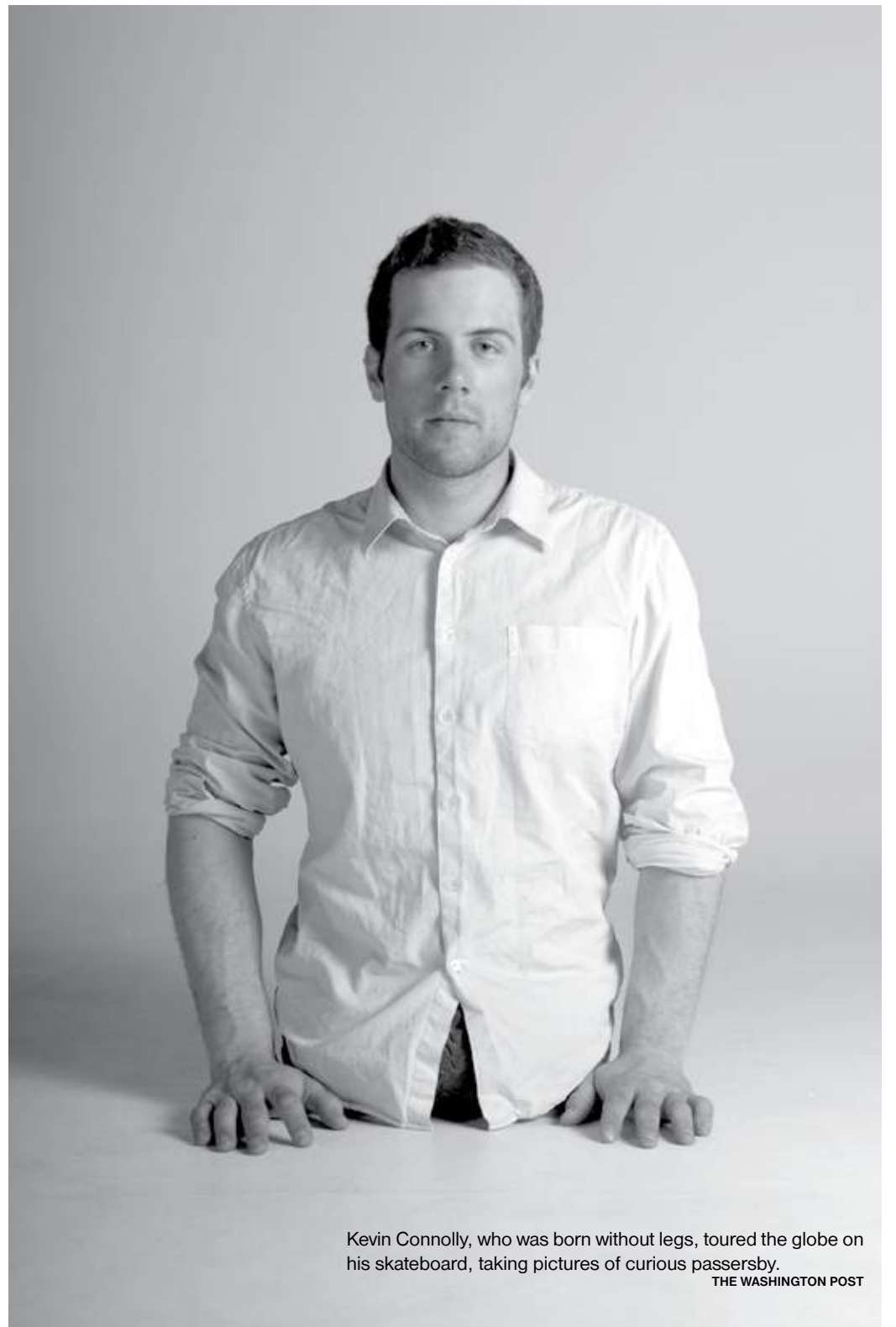
People imagined all kinds of scenarios to explain why there was a man with no legs skateboarding next to them. A little boy in New Zealand asked him if he had been eaten by a shark. Someone in Sarajevo assumed he was a victim of the Balkan war. In his home town, Helena, Mont., a man asked him about Iraq and if he still wore his dog tags. Lots of people tried to give him money, thinking he was a beggar. (Ukrainians were the most aggressive. When Connolly refused their handouts, they shoved cash in his backpack.)

The real story: Doctors told him it’s a “sporadic birth defect,” which Connolly interprets as they have no idea why he was born without legs.

“My parents made the decision to not put me in a wheelchair or a hospital,” he says. “They just took me home.”

He wears what he calls a “boot” on the bottom of his torso, which keeps his posture straight and protects him from the ground, like a shoe.

Connolly started riding a skateboard during his freshman year at Montana State University in Bozeman so that he could quickly move from building to building while wearing a backpack. Trying to carry a backpack while in a wheelchair is difficult, he says, but he keeps a wheel-



Kevin Connolly, who was born without legs, toured the globe on his skateboard, taking pictures of curious passersby.

THE WASHINGTON POST

chair in his apartment. “It’s great for cooking—rolling around and carrying hot dishes.”

He traveled alone for half of his three months abroad for “The Rolling Exhibition.” The only snag was when he got hit by a car in Bosnia because of a narrow sidewalk. He fell off his board and bruised his ribs but didn’t have to go to the hospital.

Connolly is used to doing things that people might assume he’s incapable of. He

won a silver medal in the 2007 X Games’ monoski event; the money helped finance his trip. But don’t act too impressed, says James Joyce, Connolly’s film professor at MSU.

“When I want to agitate him, I tell him he’s my hero and he hates that,” Joyce says. “He absolutely hates that. What he wants is for you to respect him for his work and not for ‘overcoming his challenges’ (and I put that in air quotes).”

VSA arts brought “The Rolling Exhibition” to the Kennedy Center. Stephanie Moore, the organization’s director of visual arts, heard about Connolly after he was featured on ABC’s “20/20” in January. The exhibition debuted last fall in Bozeman.

“I think his work comes from a place of empowerment,” Moore says. “It’s a great first-person narrative of a person with disability, but he’s a talented photographer in his own right.”

Soprano Joan Sutherland hospitalized after fall

GENEVA (AP)—Opera legend Joan Sutherland is recovering well after breaking both legs during a fall at her Swiss home, her agent said Monday.

“She had an accident while doing the gardening, and somehow managed to break both her legs,” agent David Sigall said.

The 81-year-old soprano is now in a Swiss hospital undergoing rehabilitation, Sigall told The Associated Press by telephone from London.

“She has been moved to the rehabilitation section,” he said,

adding that Sutherland would likely remain there for up to eight weeks before being allowed to put any weight on her legs.

“All is well except I’m sure she’s not pleased,” said Sigall, who had not yet spoken to Sutherland himself.

The accident occurred June 24 while the Australian singer was picking flowers in the garden and lost her balance, an assistant

reached at Sutherland’s home near Montreux, told the AP.

The assistant, who asked not to be named, said Sutherland underwent successful surgery at a nearby hospital and was in good spirits.

Sutherland’s husband, conductor Richard Bonyng, initially canceled a planned performance with Opera Australia later this month but was convinced by Sutherland

land to carry out the engagement, the assistant said.

“Mr. Bonyng has now gone to Australia” to conduct Gaetano Donizetti’s “Lucia di Lammermoor,” Sigall said.

Sutherland’s performance in the difficult title role in a 1959 Covent Garden revival widely is seen as her breakthrough in an international career that lasted until 1991.

Sigall said Sutherland had no previous accidents. “She’s always been in pretty robust health.”



Sutherland

Kidman, Urban have new baby girl

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—As with most new parents, Nicole Kidman and Keith Urban might have difficulty telling what day it is.

No matter. From here on out, they'll have a little Sunday every day.

The Oscar-winning actress and her country-star husband welcomed a baby girl on Monday, then named her after the day before.

"Earlier this morning Nic gave birth to our beautiful baby girl, Sunday Rose Kidman Urban," read the message posted on Urban's Web site. "We want to thank everybody that has kept us in their thoughts and prayers. We feel very blessed and grateful that we can share this joy with all of you today."

The first baby for Kidman and Urban, Sunday weighed 6 pounds, 7 1/2 ounces,

according to Paul Freundlich, a publicist for the singer. There was no immediate explanation for the name, though one thing is certain: She'll never be upstaged by the likes of Suri, Apple, Moses, or Shiloh.

Sunday - not the day on which she was born, lest she be associated with the beginning of the work week - joins a long list of offbeat celebrity baby names, from Suri (of Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes), to Apple and Moses (of Gwyneth Paltrow and Chris Martin) and Shiloh, Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie's most recent addition.

Kidman and Urban married in June 2006. She has two children, Isabella and Connor, from her marriage to Tom Cruise. Cruise filed for divorce in February 2001 after 10 years of marriage, and the divorce was finalized later that year.

Kidman, 41, won an Oscar for her role in the 2002 film "The Hours."

During a concert Saturday in Nashville, Urban said, "I'm going to dedicate a song to my very, very, very, very, very pregnant wife" before singing his hit, "Better Half."

Urban, 40, won a Grammy in 2006 for best male country vocal.

The couple, who were both raised in Australia, have a home in Nashville.

In a recent radio interview in Nashville, Kidman revealed that Urban had been getting hands-on in preparation for the birth by attending Lamaze lessons, saying, "He doesn't know the name (of the classes), but he has been very good at it!"

So when will Sunday's birthday finally fall on a Sunday? That won't be until 2012, when she turns four.



In this April 14, 2008 file photo, Keith Urban pats the stomach of his wife Nicole Kidman as they arrive at the CMT Music Awards in Nashville, Tenn.

Wife of Yankees Alex Rodriguez files for divorce

By CURT ANDERSON and JAKE COYLE
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

MIAMI (AP)—A tumultuous week for Alex Rodriguez, played out in tabloid headlines and carried on the whispers of a connection to Madonna, came to a head Monday when his wife filed for divorce.

The more than 5-year marriage collapsed amid reports of a new friendship between the Yankee slugger and the 49-year-old pop singer, an only-in-New York convergence of sport and entertainment celebrity.

Played out in both the sports pages and gossip magazines, the saga appeared to have taken its toll on Cynthia Rodriguez, who said in divorce papers that her husband "emotionally abandoned his wife and children."

"The marriage of the parties is irretrievably broken because of the husband's extramarital affairs and other marital misconduct," according to her petition for dissolution of marriage, filed in the family division of Miami-Dade County Circuit Court.

The New York Yankees third baseman, who earned his 12th All-Star selection Sunday, has refused to comment on any relationship with Madonna.

Rodriguez's attorney in Miami, Ira M. Elegant—who is also representing NBA star Shaquille O'Neal in his ongoing divorce—said he had not reviewed the divorce petition but added: "As you know, anyone can pay the filing fee and make allegations."

Richard Rubenstein, a spokesman for Rodriguez, declined to address to allegations of infidelity, saying that would be brought up in court.

"His priorities are to have a future with his children and be a big part of their lives," Rubenstein said.

Cynthia Rodriguez has asked for primary custody of their two children—Nathasha Alexander, 3, and 2-month-old Ella Alexander—as well as child support and alimony.

Days before the filing, stories linking Rodriguez and Madonna began to surface, including an *Us Weekly* report last week saying that Rodriguez made several late-night visits to Madonna's apartment in New York.

Madonna, who is married to filmmaker Guy Ritchie, denied any romantic involvement with Rodriguez in a statement Sunday.

"My husband and I are not planning on getting a divorce," the statement said. "I know Alex Rodriguez through Guy Oseary, who manages both of us. I brought my kids to a Yankee game. I am not romantically involved in any way with Alex Rodriguez."

Rodriguez added some Hollywood glitz to his management team last year when he hired Oseary, who had previously worked with Madonna and Lenny Kravitz. Oseary is not a registered baseball agent, and Rodri-

she wants to take the high road and protect her children and herself. There's no vindictiveness here," Kutner said. "She wants to resolve the issues between Alex and herself in an amicable fashion."

The couple, who married in November 2002, has had a prenuptial agreement in place since Oct. 3, 2002, according to the divorce papers.

Because Florida is a no-fault divorce state, extramarital affairs do not factor into how the Rodriguezes' assets might be divided, according to marriage law experts Leon Finkel and David Levy of Oak Park, Ill. That is, unless such affairs are specifically addressed in the prenuptial agreement.

They have a \$12 million, six-bedroom house in the upscale Miami suburb of Coral Gables. A company run by a corporation controlled by Rodriguez bought an apartment at Trump Park Avenue in Manhattan for \$7.4 million in July 2005.

The divorce petition was filed the day after Rodriguez hit his 536th homer, tying Yankees Hall of Famer Mickey Mantle for 13th.

The 32-year-old Rodriguez has found himself in the tabloids more than any other Yankee since arriving in New York in 2004. Last year, he was labeled "Stray-Rod" on the front page of the *New York Post* after being photographed out at night with a former Vegas stripper.

"I think for Alex, he's been through this before, he knows how to handle it," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said Thursday. "I'm sure there are times he wishes he could just fit in. That's the price you pay."

"Obviously, everyone likes to keep their life private. Unfortunately, in this world, that doesn't happen."

Yankees co-chairman Hank Steinbrenner didn't seem too concerned when asked if his star player can keep his off-field problems from affecting his play.

"Everybody has personal problems to deal with. Just playing baseball doesn't change that anymore than it does for anybody else," Steinbrenner said at the Yankees' complex in Tampa, Fla. "But I'm sure he'll be fine."

Rodriguez is in the first season of a \$275 million, 10-year contract with the Yankees, a deal that allows him to earn up to \$305 million. He made \$185.45 million from 2001-7 from his contract with the Texas Rangers and Yankees.



In this Dec. 31, 2007 file photo, New York Yankees star Alex Rodriguez, left, and his wife, Cynthia, arrive at the grand opening of Jay-Z's 40/40 Club at the Palazzo hotel and casino in Las Vegas.

quez retained Scott Boras as his representative on baseball matters.

Madonna's statement added that she has "nothing to do with the state of his marriage or what spiritual path he may choose to study," apparently in reference to reports that the singer had introduced the ballplayer to the form of Jewish mysticism known as Kabbalah.

Cynthia Rodriguez last week visited the Paris home of Kravitz. The rocker denied anything improper, saying she had come to France to escape the media frenzy in New York and stayed at his home as a friend.

Her lawyer, Maurice Kutner, declined to elaborate on the divorce filing, which does not mention Madonna—or any alleged partners—by name.

"Cynthia has made it very clear to me that

Model Brinkley recalls breakup 'nightmare'

NEW YORK (AP) — Christie Brinkley had everything she wanted: a family and an old Hamptons farmhouse brimming with children's music and art and beloved pets. But Brinkley testified at her divorce trial Monday that her lifelong dream of a "big, happy family" in a quaint setting was cruelly ripped away when her husband had an affair with a teenager.

"Anyone who would run the risk of destroying this wonderful life, anybody that would chase a teenager - I mean, a young girl—where is his judgment?" she said.

The former *Sports Illustrated* swimsuit model and architect Peter Cook are arguing over custody of their two children and other issues in a divorce trial that has produced a series of salacious revelations. Brinkley's trip to the witness stand Monday was not as explosive as some of last week's testimony, but it did contain some juicy details.

Brinkley portrayed Cook as inflexible about the children, saying he once refused to change his visitation schedule to let their son, now 13, attend a Billy Joel concert last year at the boy's private East Hampton school. Joel and Brinkley were married in the 1980s and had a daughter together.

But before Cook's affair burst into the tabloids and sank their marriage, Brinkley described him to an interviewer as "just the greatest father."

Cook's lawyer, Norman Sheresky, asked whether she'd meant it.

"Partially," Brinkley said, explaining that her admiration waned in the latter years of their marriage.

Brinkley emphasized her own hands-on parenting in her testimony Monday. She had a range of household helpers, at times including a nanny, a cook, a groundskeeper and a laundress (because Cook insisted on having his underwear ironed, she said). But Brinkley said she "put in a very full, busy day in an active, wonderful life."

Her lawyers even introduced some physical evidence: an elaborate dinosaur diorama—complete with a volcano and flying raptors - she said she had helped her son make for a science class.

Last week, Brinkley testified that her world "was completely shattered" by news of the affair. "My life as I knew it had vanished," she said.

She told the court Monday that after finding out her husband had had an affair with the 18-year-old woman, the model put on a brave face and threw a birthday party with 30 kids.

"That's the most important thing—to have a big, happy family," she said.

The court heard testimony last week from Cook, 49, and his former mistress, Diana Bianchi. Cook said he gave Bianchi a \$300,000 payoff, had trysts with her in his office and spent thousands of dollars on online pornography.

Village People cop in hospital

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Former Village People lead singer Victor Willis is recovering from vocal cord surgery and has postponed his tour.

Willis, the band's original policeman, is resting in a San Di-

ego hospital after surgery Monday to remove nodules from his vocal cords, spokeswoman Linda Smith said.

Willis sang lead and co-wrote lyrics to such Village People hits as "Y-M-C-A"

and "Macho Man." He developed hoarseness after several 2007 performances, forcing him to cancel European and Canadian concert dates this year.

He's expected to recover and

reschedule the tour dates.

Willis left the group in 1980. In 2006, San Francisco police found cocaine in his car; he pleaded no contest to drug possession and served three years' probation.

Ringo Starr celebrates 68th birthday

CHICAGO (AP)—Ringo Starr celebrated his 68th birthday in Chicago giving out messages of peace and love, along with dessert.

Fans surrounded the former Beatles drummer Monday as he waited for the clock to strike noon the Hard Rock Hotel. Then he flashed peace signs with both hands in the air and yelled, "Twelve o'clock - peace and love!"

The crowd of about 300 sang "Happy Birthday" to Starr, who passed out white-iced cupcakes with his wife Barbara Bach. He says his dream for the day was to spread peace and love.

Starr and his band play a concert in Chicago on Sunday.



Former Beatles drummer Ringo Starr serves cupcakes during his 68th birthday celebration outside the Hard Rock Hotel in Chicago, Monday, July 7, 2008.

Benny and Bjorn: no ABBA reunion

LONDON (AP)—Despite the astonishing success of the stage musical "Mamma Mia!," ABBA has ruled out any reunion tour.

Songwriters Bjorn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson of the Swedish pop quartet told Britain's Sunday Telegraph that ABBA will never perform together again.

Ulvaeus said "money is not a factor and we would like people to remember us as we were.



Young, exuberant, full of energy and ambition."

ABBA was one of the biggest bands of the 1970s, with hits including "Waterloo," "Dancing Queen" and "Money, Money, Money." The group also included singers Agnetha Faltskog and Anni-Frid Lyngstad.

ABBA split in 1982 but continues to sell nearly 3 million records a year. Last week all four members appeared at the Swedish premiere of "Mamma Mia!," a film based on their hits.

In this June 14, 1974 file photo, Swedish pop group ABBA, Bjorn Ulvaeus, back left, Benny Andersson, back right, Agnetha Faltskog, front left, and Anni-Frid Lyngstad are shown.

Obama's stadium speech sends networks scrambling

NEW YORK (AP)—Barack Obama's plan to accept the Democratic presidential nomination at a Denver outdoor stadium instead of the arena in which his party's convention will be held sent the television networks scrambling Monday.

Only hours after Obama announced he would make his speech at the 76,000-seat Invesco Field at Mile High instead of the Pepsi Center, executives at ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN and Fox News Channel held a conference call to discuss how it affects their carefully considered plans to pool camera coverage of the event.

The budget-conscious broadcast networks will also consider scaling back the size of studios they traditionally build at the convention center, knowing they will also have to prepare perches for their anchors at the

stadium, said executives at three networks who spoke on condition of anonymity because no



Obama

decisions had been made.

The broadcast networks haven't announced their plans, but it's likely they will each set

aside one hour in prime-time for three of the four nights of the convention. That will include Obama's speech, and most likely the acceptance speech for the Democratic vice presidential candidates.

CNN, Fox News Channel and MSNBC will have more extensive coverage, and aren't likely to be scaling back. MSNBC will anchor its coverage from an outdoor studio in Denver, and CNN has a mobile studio that it plans to use.

"The viewers on cable will see everything and the people who watch on the networks will be able to see everything as well," said David Bohman, CNN executive in charge of political coverage.

Woman preparing to wed is fearful of growing apart

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: I am a 27-year-old woman who has been dating my boyfriend for a number of years. As exciting as the thought of marriage sounds, it is also scary. Too many times I have heard that a couple separated because they had "grown apart" or "grew in different directions."

How does a couple go about preventing this from happening? There have to be things we can do to protect ourselves against this -- but what are they? Your advice would be appreciated.

SKITTISH IN MAPLE GROVE, MINN.

Dear Abby

DEAR SKITTISH: Couples grow apart when they stop talking and listening to each other, when they fight instead of disagree, and when they forget the reasons they married in the first place. They also run into trouble if they're not on the same page before marriage about how to handle money, whether they are sexually compatible, and how their children should be raised.

Premarital counseling is helpful in bringing out these issues, and some churches now insist upon it. Intelligent people get to really know each other before taking the leap, as you and your boyfriend have already done. However, even longtime couples need to make sure they have all their cards on the table before embarking on the sea of matrimony, and to fully recognize they cannot change the other person.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have a friend, "Amanda," I met last year at school. I consider her my best friend, and people comment on how we're always together.

Amanda's family doesn't have much money, so when she tells me she's broke I don't hesitate to give her money. I have bought her meals and movie tickets, too. It wouldn't bother me if she ever said a simple "thank you" or "please" to me.

My parents have noticed it, too. They are annoyed that Amanda has never thanked them for letting her spend the night. My dad recently commented that it's rude that she never says "hello" to him when he comes home and she is there.

What can I do about Amanda's manners? Am I wrong to be bothered by her lack of them? I don't want to lose her as a friend, but it's something I can't seem to let go.

LITTLE MISS MANNERS

DEAR L.M.M.: More is lacking in Amanda's household than money. Think about it. Where did you learn the basic social graces? From your parents, of course. The reason for Amanda's poor manners is that she was never taught otherwise.

Have a talk with your friend and explain what the rules are in your household. You don't have to be mean when you do -- and you'll be doing her a favor.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: From time to time you print helpful hints from readers, and mine could possibly save some families from incurring an expensive plumbing repair.

I have been married and divorced twice. As a younger man, my wives and I always flushed our cigarette butts down the toilet when in the bathroom. One day, we had a serious plumbing problem—our toilet overflowed. After getting the plumbing bill we found out all the cigarette filters had eventually closed up our sewer line. It was a costly lesson I hope other smokers will heed—and I'm not even mentioning the risk of cancer.

SMARTER NOW IN THE U.S.A.

DEAR SMARTER NOW: I won't mention the subject of cancer either. Thank you for your helpful suggestion, as well as the reminder that toilets were not intended for the type of butts you were flushing.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Steve-O says he's back in 'looney bin'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Steve-O is back in rehab.

The "Jackass" daredevil writes in his blog that after 115 days of sobriety, he is "back in the looney bin." Steve-O, whose real name is Stephen Glover, told fans that he's still struggling with the effects of the many drugs he'd taken over the years.

Glover didn't indicate in the July 3 posting on MySpace where he was staying or for how long. His agent said Monday he would not comment on personal matters.

Glover was arrested for drug possession in March at his Hollywood home. He pleaded guilty to cocaine possession last month, part of a deal that called for successful completion of a rehab program.

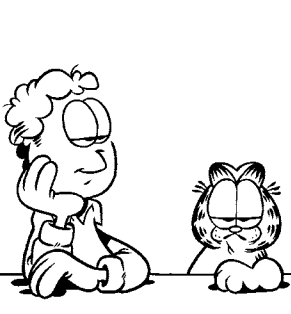
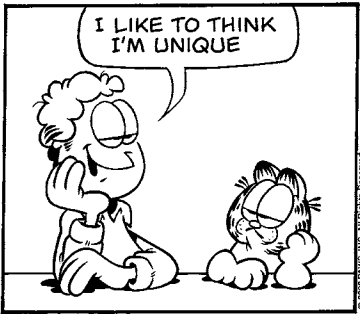
His attorney, Barry Gerald Sands, was expected to deliver a progress report in a Los Angeles court Tuesday.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

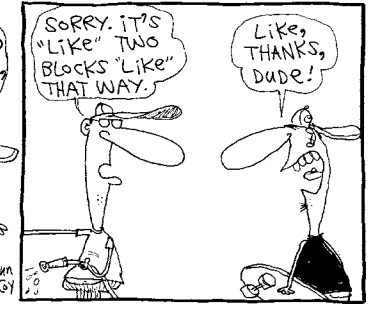
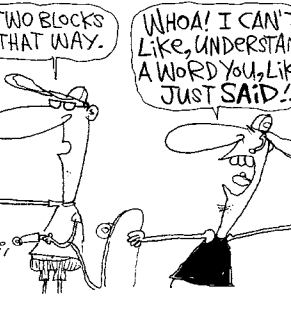
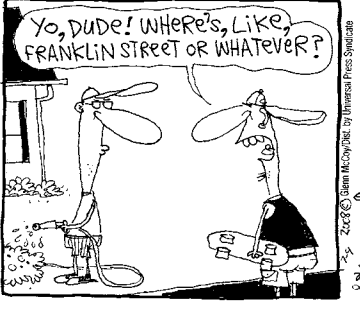
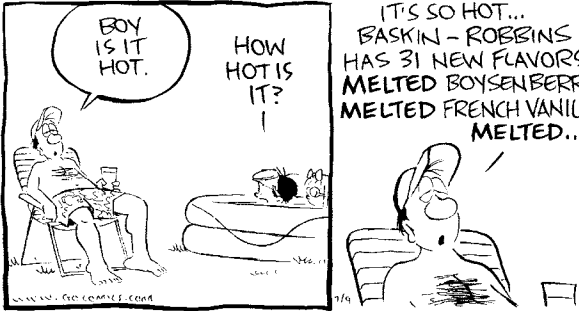
By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Shoot with a ray gun

4 Catego-rize

8 Depend (on)

12 Have debts

13 Some-where out there

14 Canal zone?

15 Raw rocks

16 Unyield-ing

18 Talking bird

20 Ad-dressee

21 Rickey flavoring

24 Sen. Kefauver

28 Flag position

32 Franc successor

33 Ecol. org.

34 Go — tailspin

36 Greet the villain

37 Helper (Abbr.)

39 Couric's offering

41 Detox venue

43 Oklahoma city

44 Yule quaff

46 Remark to the audience

50 Clean stone, one way

55 DuPont rival

56 Dandling site

57 Opposi-tionist

58 Shelter

59 Particular

60 Not fern.

61 Curvy character

3 Hammer-head part

4 Raw-fish dish

5 Fre-quently

6 "Norma —"

7 Salver

8 Just say no

9 Historic rival

10 Fleur-de- —

11 Never-theless

17 Bambi's Aunt Ena, e.g.

19 TV alien

22 "Death in Venice" writer

23 Lauder of cosmetics

25 Oompah producer

26 Piccadilly statue

27 Santa's laundry woe

28 Get wind of

29 Church section

30 Cilium

31 Burg

35 One kind of elephant

38 Type of bike

40 LPs' descen-dants

42 Go up and down

45 Glitz and —

47 Between tasks

48 Serves the purpose

49 Rams fans?

50 Schuss

51 Pismire

52 Born

53 Literary collection

54 Rds.

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterdays answer 7-9

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Fred Savage, 32; Courtney Love, 44; Kelly McGillis, 51; Tom Hanks, 52

Happy Birthday: Keep a handle on your reactions and it will be easier to get what you want. Opportunities are available to you this year if you take a leap of faith. Trust in what an older, more experienced friend tells you. It will lead to your personal, professional and emotional gains. Your numbers are 8, 21, 26, 28, 36, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your personal interactions may be difficult if you or someone you are close to overreacts. Don't let situations escalate. Take care of the small but important details but don't pass up an opportunity to do something exciting. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't waste time trying to convince others. Instead, follow through on a small scale, building something solid that will give you full jurisdiction. Love is in the stars and an evening of playful entertainment should be your intent. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You may want a quick fix for a money problem you have but gambling is not the answer. Use your ingenuity and put your ideas in the hands of someone who can help you turn around your finances. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Emotions will escalate if you disagree with someone you live with or are close to. You'll have regrets if you react without thinking. Instead, give yourself time to think about whatever situation prevails. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't let a secret come between you and one of your close friends. Getting involved with someone who is already in a relationship will end in disaster. Spend time with someone who can help you earn more, invest more wisely or find ways to pay for improvements. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't sit back, letting others take credit for your expertise. The more entertaining you are, the more help you will muster. Do some good for something you believe in. Donate, offer services or lend a helping hand. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't get into a scuffle with someone who can make your life miserable. Put time and energy into something you enjoy. Self-improvement or learning a new skill will bring you in contact with people who can make a difference to your future. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Trying something new will spark interest in what you are doing and give you some ideas that can be developed into something profitable or at least interesting. Listen to comments made and it will save you financially. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): If you are relentless in your pursuits, you will make money and gather interest and partners who are willing to put in a fair share. Collecting old debts or paying off what you owe will lead to a helping hand from someone. ****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Expect someone to cause upset or to disrupt your plans. If you are prepared to go ahead full

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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force, you will avoid some of the anguish caused by people who cannot make up their minds. Be serious about what you want to do. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can make major changes in your life if you use your head, your good ideas and your strength and courage to put your plans in motion. There is a chance that someone who owes you will come through for you, so don't hesitate to ask. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't let someone talk you into leaving work unfinished. Fun is in the stars, so work quickly and you will enjoy the remainder of the day. A strong partnership will form and good ideas will develop. ***

Birthday Baby: You take your home and family life seriously. You have plenty of charm, are open to suggestions and always follow that small voice within you.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★★★

7/09

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

Difficulty Level ★★

7/08

WONDERWORD® By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

JAPANESE SPA RITUALS Solution: 8 letters

R T E G R E M B U S O C I A L
E E E C N E I R E P X E R C A
H M J O R E W O H S E N I I C
A P P U R I F Y R C R T N T I
B E R T V E M E H E U U S N H
I R I D I E V A L E S R E E P
L A S O N I N I P S I I R H O
I T T O R G G A T N E E U T S
T U I R E I R C T A L S T U O
A R N S O E N H A E R E L A L
T E E U H C E D S L F U U G I
I R S T H R E T O C M C I H
O T S I M O E A A O A I L N P
N H T A B A M I N D R R N G L
S E L P M E T E K A O S E G S

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Aging, Authentic, Bath, Calming, Care, Centuries, Change, Cleanse, Culture, Curative, Experience, Home, Indoors, Leisure, Life, Mind, Mist, Ocean, Outdoors, Philosophical, Pristine, Purify, Rehabilitation, Rejuvenate, Religious, Rinse, Rivers, Shower, Soak, Social, Steam, Submerge, Temperature, Temples, Therapeutic, Thermal

Yesterday's Answer: Remnant

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Brewers send 4 prospects to Indians for Sabathia



MILWAUKEE
(AP)—With one XXL-sized move, the Milwaukee

Brewers hope to transform themselves from scrappy underdogs to a big, bad pitching powerhouse intent on chasing down the Chicago Cubs and making the playoffs for the first time since 1982.

The Brewers obtained AL Cy Young Award winner CC Sabathia in a trade with the Cleveland Indians on Monday, giving up four prospects in a gamble that favors the present over the future.

"I'd say we're going for it," Brewers general manager Doug Melvin said. "That's the way I look at it."

The deal stacks the Brewers' deck with a pair of aces, Sabathia and Ben Sheets—but only for a few months.

Barring blockbuster contract offers from a small-market team that already is stretching this year's payroll into the \$90 million range, both players will become free agents after the season.

But Sabathia said that's a concern for the offseason. Right now, he's just trying to blend in and get back to having fun on the mound—something he didn't do in the postseason last year.

"If anybody's ever seen me pitch, I'm out there laughing and having fun," said Sabathia, who went 19-7 with a 3.21



Milwaukee Brewers new pitcher C.C. Sabathia, left, smiles with manager Ned Yost as he talks at a news conference Monday, July 7, 2008, in Milwaukee.

ERA last season but lost two games to Boston in the ALCS. "That's just me, and that's something that I didn't do last year. When we get to the playoffs, I'll definitely be doing that."

Still, the deal hardly assures the

Brewers an easy road to the postseason. After losing 4-3 to Colorado on Monday, Milwaukee is four games behind the Chicago Cubs and a half game behind St. Louis in the NL Central.

"Let's face it: This is still a calcu-

lated risk," Brewers principal owner Mark Attanasio said. "The other teams in our division aren't going to sit back and look at this and say, 'Oh, now the Brewers have got CC Sabathia. Let's just roll over.'"

The football player-sized Sabathia—slugger Prince Fielder offered to lend him a pair of uniform pants—is the first reigning Cy Young winner to be traded since Roger Clemens was dealt to the New York Yankees in the offseason after winning the award with the Toronto Blue Jays in 1998.

For Cleveland, it's a sign of surrendering hardy anyone would have imagined going into the season.

Indians general manager Mark Shapiro said the team's string of injuries and disappointing performances made it hard to imagine a significant rally in the second half.

"We all headed into this season with what we feel are well-founded expectations for a championship-contending season," Shapiro said. "Four core players on the DL—tough for almost any franchise to overcome—as well as disappointing performances from many components of our team, most noticeably in the bullpen, leave us at the juncture we're at. There wasn't much doubt or question in our mind that it was

nearly impossible for us to become a contending club this year."

Sabathia arrived in Milwaukee before Monday night's game against Colorado and is scheduled to pitch against the Rockies on Tuesday night. He also is expected to pitch against Cincinnati on Sunday, giving him a pair of starts for his new team at home leading into the All-Star break.

Milwaukee sent Cleveland outfielder Matt LaPorta, pitchers Rob Bryson and Zach Jackson and a player to be named. Shapiro said the player to be named would be one of two specified in the deal.

Melvin said the Brewers' strong farm system gave him flexibility to deal away a good prospect.

"Matt LaPorta is going to be a good big league player, and I hope he is," Melvin said.

Attanasio said the acquisition of Sabathia will push the team's payroll around \$90 million this season. Attanasio said the move might prevent the club from turning a profit this year, but it was made possible by increased fan support and sound financial decisions in recent years.

"We'd always love to go for it," Attanasio said. "But you can go for it in a stupid fashion, and Doug and his group have never done that."

Royals snap Rays' 7-game winning streak on 10th-inning homers

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP)—John Buck and Mike Aviles hit 10th-inning homers to lead Kansas City to a 7-4 victory Monday that snapped Tampa Bay's seven-game winning streak.

Carlos Pena hit a tying solo homer off Royals closer Joakim Soria in the ninth.

Billy Butler reached on an error to start the 10th and after a walk, Buck lined his fourth homer down the left-field line off Dan Wheeler (2-4). Two pitches later, Aviles homered to make it 7-3.

Soria (1-1) blew his second save in 25 chances. He allowed Eric Hinske's solo homer in the bottom of the 10th.

Tampa Bay, with the major's best record at 55-33, lost for the second time in the last 13 games.

Aviles had three hits and David DeJesus had three hits and two RBIs for the Royals, who avoided being swept in the four-game series.

Red Sox 1, Twins 0

At Boston, Manny Ramirez hit a run-scoring single in the eighth to lift Boston in a pitching duel between Daisuke Matsuzaka and Minnesota's Scott Baker.

Dustin Pedroia extended his career-high hitting streak to 15 games with a double on the first pitch from reliever Brian Bass (3-3) in the eighth. Pedroia advanced on a groundout and Ramirez then lined a single to right through a drawn-in infield.

The Red Sox, coming off a 3-7 road trip that dropped them into second place in the AL East behind Tampa Bay, won for the 23rd time in 29 games in Fenway Park.

The Twins lost just their fourth in 22 games, ending a five-game winning streak.

Matsuzaka pitched 7 1-3 innings, allowing six hits, walking three and striking out five. Hideki Okajima (2-2) escaped a bases loaded, one-out jam in the eighth for the win.

Jonathan Papelbon got the final three

outs for his 26th save.

Baker gave up five hits, walked two and struck out seven in seven innings.

Angels 9, Rangers 6

At Arlington, Texas, Torii Hunter homered twice, the first capping a six-run second inning, and Los Angeles held on.

Vladimir Guerrero, Jeff Mathis and Hunter homered in the big second inning that gave the Angels an 8-0 lead. All three were off Rangers starter Luis Mendoza (1-3), who allowed eight runs in 1 1-3 innings.

Hunter had an RBI single in the first and homered in the seventh.

Ervin Santana (10-3) allowed six runs and 10 hits in seven innings in winning for the second time in six starts.

David Murphy and Chris Davis homered off Santana in Texas' five-run fifth.

Francisco Rodriguez pitched the ninth for his 35th save.

Ian Kinsler of the Rangers went 4-for-5 to extend his hitting streak to a career-high 19 games.

Athletics 4, Mariners 3

At Oakland, California, Wes Bankston hit his first career home run, Dana Eveland won his third straight decision and Oakland ended an eight-game home losing streak.

Bankston, called up from Triple-A on Wednesday when the A's placed shortstop Bobby Crosby on the disabled list, hit a two-run homer off Seattle starter Jarrod Washburn in the fifth. Bankston also doubled and scored in the second.

Ryan Sweeney's RBI-single in the fifth drove in the eventual game-winning run for the A's, who hadn't beaten Seattle at the Coliseum since July 5, 2007.

Seattle fell to 7-10 under interim manager Jim Riggleman.

Eveland (7-5) gave up three runs in the first and pitched with runners in scoring position in five of the first six

innings. He left after allowing nine hits over 5 1-3 innings.

Huston Street, the last of three Oakland relievers, pitched the ninth for his 17th save.

Adrian Beltre finished 4-for-5 and Richie Sexson had a three-run homer for the Mariners.

Dodgers 3, Braves 0

At Los Angeles, Hiroki Kuroda took a perfect game into the eighth inning and settled for a one-hitter, leading Los Angeles to victory over Atlanta.

The win moved the Dodgers into a tie for first in the NL West with idle Arizona.

Kuroda (5-6) retired the first 21 batters before Mark Teixeira lined the right-hander's 70th pitch into the right field corner for a double leading off the eighth. He was the only Atlanta baserunner.

Kuroda was attempting to become the first Dodger to throw a no-hitter since countryman Hideo Nomo on Sept. 17, 1996, 9-0 at Colorado. Kuroda, 33, signed with the Dodgers in December as a free agent after 11 seasons with Hiroshima of the Japanese Central League. He threw 91 pitches and struck out six in a game that lasted just 2 hours and 3 minutes.

Jose Campillo (3-4) took a one-hitter into the fifth before the Dodgers scored their runs. The right-hander walked James Loney to open the inning, and Nomar Garciaparra hit his second homer of the season one out later.

Campillo allowed three runs and five hits over seven innings in his Dodger Stadium debut.

Marlins 3, Padres 1

At San Diego, Jorge Cantu hit a two-run home run off Greg Maddux, which was enough to carry Ricky Nolasco and Florida to the victory.

Nolasco (10-4) won his fifth straight decision, holding San Diego to one run and five hits in eight innings. He

struck out seven and walked none. Kevin Gregg pitched a perfect ninth for his 16th save.

Maddux (3-7) became the ninth big league pitcher to reach 350 victories on May 10. Since then, he's 0-4 with seven no-decisions, even though he's allowed two or fewer earned runs eight times in that streak. He allowed one earned run and four hits in six innings.

Hanley Ramirez of the Marlins doubled in the sixth to extend his hitting streak to a career-high 14 games.

Cantu homered to left with one out in the fourth, his 16th.

Rockies 4, Brewers 3

At Milwaukee, Ubaldo Jimenez allowed three hits over seven innings and Colorado spoiled Milwaukee's daylong welcome party for CC Sabathia.

Jimenez (4-8) has won three of his last four starts after beginning the season 1-7.

All-Star Matt Holliday hit his 14th home run—and fourth in four games—for Colorado, which has won six of its last seven.

Sabathia is scheduled to make his Milwaukee debut Tuesday night, a day after he was acquired in a trade with Cleveland.

Prince Fielder hit a two-run homer in a three-run eighth against Taylor Buchholz, cutting the Rockies' lead to 4-3. Brian Fuentes pitched a perfect ninth for his 14th save.

Brewers starter Seth McClung (5-4) was pulled from the game two outs into the fifth after giving up two runs and walking five.

Pirates 10, Astros 7

At Pittsburgh, Nate McLouth and Ryan Doumit both homered as the Pirates snapped a three-game losing streak.

Adam LaRoche reached base four times, scored twice and drove in a run as eight Pirates had RBIs. Jason Bay went 2-for-3 with two walks and two runs, and Xavier

Nady had two hits and two RBIs for Pittsburgh, which scored more runs during the first three innings Monday than they did in being swept in three games in Milwaukee over the weekend.

Carlos Lee hit his 20th homer and had three RBIs for the Astros, who have lost six of seven.

The Houston pitching staff was depleted after a 17-inning loss Sunday at Atlanta, forcing the Astros to ride Runelvys Hernandez (0-3) for four innings in which he allowed 10 runs, 13 hits and four walks.

The Pirates bullpen worked 5 2-3 shutout innings, highlighted by Denny Bautista (2-1) going 2-3.

Mets 10, Phillies 9

At Philadelphia, Pedro Martinez pitched into the sixth inning then watched New York give back nearly all of a nine-run lead before holding on.

David Wright homered and drove in four runs as the Mets built a 10-1 lead in the sixth.

The Mets had a 10-7 lead heading into the ninth, but Billy Wagner, who blew a save in the Mets' win Sunday, gave up a two-out RBI single to Pedro Feliz and Eric Bruntlett, who had walked, scored on a throwing error by center fielder Carlos Beltran. Wagner got Jayson Werth for his 20th save in 26 opportunities.

Endy Chavez, Damion Easley and Fernando Tatis had three hits each for the Mets, who tied a season high with 17 hits. They took three of four from the Phillies to move within 2 1/2 games of the NL East leaders.

Martinez (3-2) allowed five hits and two earned runs in 5 1-3 innings.

Adam Eaton (3-7) entered the game with a 5-0 career record against the Mets, but allowed 10 hits and eight runs—six earned—in 2 2-3 innings.

Chase Utley, Pat Burrell, Ryan Howard and Geoff Jenkins homered for the Phillies.

Round 1 to Beasley: His Heat top Rose's Bulls



ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Michael Beasley stood in the doorway to the gym an hour before gametime, iPod in his left hand, head bobbing slightly as he chatted with new Miami Heat teammate Mario Chalmers.

He was the picture of cool.

And on the court, his demeanor didn't change much.

If Beasley was the tiniest bit anxious about his first pro outing—one that came against the Chicago Bulls and Derrick Rose, the only player selected before him in last month's NBA draft—he hid the nerves perfectly. Beasley scored 28 points in 23 minutes, lifting Miami past Chicago 94-70 on Monday in the Orlando summer league opener for both teams.

It was the ninth-highest scoring performance in Orlando summer league history, and true to his form, Beasley wasn't the least bit impressed.

"Could have played better," he said. "Could have got a couple more assists, made a couple extra passes, got a couple more rebounds, could have got a couple stops early on."

He was 9-for-21 from the field, with nine rebounds and 19 points in the second half—matching the total that Bulls forwards Joakim Noah and Tyrus Thomas, both second-year NBA players, managed in the entire game. The Bulls started with Thomas guarding Beasley, switched to put Noah on him midway through the first quarter, and neither had much of an answer.

"He's a great player on the pick-and-roll and he's going to be someone who'll be very tough to guard," Noah said. "I mean, I was very impressed. He was very comfortable in everything that he wanted to do and he did a great job."

Meanwhile, Rose had some moments, but simply never took over the game offensively the way Beasley did.

The guard who spearheaded Memphis' run to the NCAA title game this past



Miami Heat forward Michael Beasley, center, drives past Chicago Bulls guard Keith Langford, left, and guard Derrick Rose (1) during an NBA summer league basketball game in Orlando, Fla., Monday, July 7, 2008.

season finished with 10 points on 3-for-8 shooting, with four assists and five turnovers - mostly while being guarded by Chalmers, who hit the big shot as Kansas beat Rose's Tigers in overtime in that national championship game.

"We didn't win," Rose said, "so I think I played horrible. But tomorrow's a new day."

Kasib Powell had 15 points and

Chalmers added 11 points and six assists for Miami. Demetris Nichols and Keith Langford both had 13 points for Chicago.

Each team plays five games in the six-team, weeklong summer league, which also features entries from Indiana, Orlando, New Jersey and Oklahoma City. Summer league games are really glorified scrimmages, each team

dressed in practice gear, with no fans in the bleachers.

But Beasley vs. Rose garnered plenty of attention, which Beasley tried to ignore.

"You can put the Jolly Green Giant out there," Beasley said. "I'm going to still play, man."

Many players from the first game, Indiana-Oklahoma City, stuck around to watch the top two draft picks. A slew of NBA coaches and executives made sure to get good seats around the court before tipoff. Heat forward Dorell Wright, who had just flown home from California, decided to make the 3 1/2-hour drive north to watch the former Kansas State forward he hopes to be teammates with next season.

"I like to see the young guys," Wright said. "And he's going to be good."

He didn't disappoint.

Beasley's first shot was blocked by Thomas—"I caught a flat, man," Beasley said—but that was a rare lowlight. He split defenders off the dribble for layups. He rebounded his own missed 3-pointer, turned toward the basket and laid it back in. He switched at the perfect time on some pick-and-rolls, denying Rose the chance to penetrate.

"He's a great player," Rose said. "He's a force."

Beasley wasn't perfect. He forced some shots, especially early. He picked up three fouls in the opening minutes, and even though players can't foul out in summer league, Heat coach Keith Askins decided to teach the rookie a lesson and sat him for the second quarter.

"I'm going to let him play as long as he wants," Askins said, "as long as he stays out of trouble."

This much is already clear: With Beasley alongside Dwyane Wade, the Heat expect to be far removed from the 15-win wreck of a season they endured last year. The Bulls couldn't stop him from scoring, and couldn't even stop him from singing during stoppages of

Bobcats coach Larry Brown hires brother Herb

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Charlotte Bobcats coach Larry Brown hired his brother to round out his coaching staff. Herb Brown will join Jeff Capel, Phil Ford and Dave Hanners as assistants. The move Monday came a day before the Bobcats open a rookie and free agent minicamp in Las Vegas.

It'll be the third time the 72-year-old Brown will work for his younger brother, who is beginning his record ninth NBA head coaching job. The Browns were also paired in Detroit and Philadelphia.

Herb Brown spent the past four seasons as an assistant in Atlanta. Charlotte is the ninth team he's worked for as an assistant. He served as head coach in Detroit for three seasons from 1975-78.

The Browns will work 18 players through this week's minicamp. The roster includes the team's three draft picks, D.J. Augustin, Alexis Ajinca and Kyle Weaver. Last year's picks Jared Dudley and Jermareo Davidson will also participate.

The roster will be cut to 12 players before Charlotte plays its first summer league game on Saturday in Las Vegas.

player, either. (Yes, they did ask.)

"I didn't want to," Beasley said. "I was happy, singing a happy song."

After his first pro outing, so were the Heat.

"Well, he's a hell of a basketball player," Askins said. "But we already knew that."

Chiefs Tony Gonzalez saves man's life in restaurant



KANSAS CITY, Mo.

(AP)—A California man says Pro Bowl tight end Tony Gonzalez of the Kansas City Chiefs kept him from choking to death. "Tony saved my life. There's no doubt," Ken Hunter, a shipping company manager, told The Associated Press in a phone interview from Huntington Beach, Calif.

"Tony came up behind me and gave me the Heimlich maneuver. Thank God he was there."

Gonzalez, a nine-time Pro Bowl selection who has set numerous NFL records, was having dinner with his wife, brother and 5-week-old daughter at Capone's restaurant in Huntington Beach Thursday night. Hunter, 45, was dining with his girlfriend at the next table when suddenly a piece of meat stuck in his throat.

"I tried to take a drink of water, but I couldn't swallow," Hunter told The AP. "Then I couldn't breathe. That's a terrible feeling. I couldn't breathe. Then I guess I started to panic."

Gonzalez, sitting with his back to Hunter's table, looked around when he heard Hunter's companion yelling.

"She was screaming, 'He can't breathe, he can't breathe,'" Gonzalez said by phone from California, where

Ex-Chargers LB Foley will settle lawsuit for \$5.5M

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Former Chargers linebacker Steve Foley has agreed to settle his lawsuit for \$5.5 million against a police officer who shot him while off-duty two years ago, ending his pro football career.

Foley struck the agreement with the city of Coronado and Officer Aaron Mansker last week, on the day he was scheduled to testify in his civil trial in San Diego Superior Court, but the terms were not released until Monday.

"He's going to be able to get on with his life and bring some closure," said Foley's attorney Harvey Levine.

The Coronado City Council approved the settlement Monday, said Mayor Tom Smisek.

The city, an upscale peninsular enclave on San Diego Bay, will pay the entire \$5.5 million, Smisek said. Insurance will cover all but \$100,000, which will come out of city coffers.

City Attorney Steve Boehmer, who represents the city and Mansker, did not respond to a phone message.

Foley, 32, was shot in his leg, hip

and hand in September 2006 after Mansker tailed his car home from downtown San Diego to suburban Poway, 15 miles north, on suspicion that the driver was drunk.

Mansker, then a 23-year-old rookie officer, was driving his personal car and wearing a T-shirt and jeans when he twice pulled up next to Foley and ordered the player to pull over. Foley ignored the orders and drove home because Mansker didn't identify himself as a police officer, Levine said during the trial.

The two men confronted one another in Foley's cul-de-sac. Mansker testified at the trial that he fired when he saw Foley reach for his waistband, thinking the player had a gun.

Foley pleaded guilty in 2007 to misdemeanor drunken driving.

He was released two years early from his contract with the Chargers in March 2007 and has moved to Houston, where he is caring for his 11-year-old daughter and plans to complete his college degree, Levine said.

he lives in the offseason. "The whole restaurant was quiet. Nobody was doing anything."

Then I saw he was turning blue. Everybody in the restaurant was just kind of sitting there wide-eyed."

The 6-foot-5 Gonzalez, about a foot taller than Hunter, jumped out of his chair and came up behind the stricken man and began to perform the Heimlich maneuver.

"After just a few seconds, the piece of meat popped out," Hunter said. "I could breathe again. It's a good thing Tony is so tall because I had stood up—I think."

Diana Martin, a restaurant employee, said no one else seemed to know what to do.

"He was so lucky Tony was there," Martin said. "In a situation like that, every second counts. It helped a lot that Tony's a big, strong guy because you have to be able to apply some pretty good pressure. I don't think I would have been strong enough to help him."

Hunter went into the restroom to clean up and didn't realize he'd been saved by a famous athlete until he came out.

"I'm a big NFL fan and I recognized him right away. I was still kind of dazed when I went over and thanked him and said, 'What can I do for you?' I guess I said it about 1,000 times."

Gonzalez, who has been active in charity and community activities during a brilliant career with the Chiefs, said he had no intention of having the incident become public.

"The next night I had a dinner for my grandmother's 90th birthday, and people were saying, 'Why didn't you tell me about that?' I honestly don't want to make a big deal out of it. But of course it does give me a lot of satisfaction to know that I was able to help somebody."

One of the most productive receivers in pro football history, Gonzalez holds the NFL record for tight ends with 820 career receptions and 102 catches in a season. He needs only 79 more yards receiving to become the career leader among tight ends.

He has never received any formal instruction in the Heimlich maneuver.

"I had seen it done, so I just did it," Gonzalez said. "When you find yourself in those situations where you have to take action in a crucial situation, you just do it. I got the same feeling I get when I go on a hospital visit."

Hunter is a lifelong fan of the San Diego Chargers, one of Kansas City's key rivals in the AFC West, and plans to be at the game when the Chiefs visit the Chargers on Nov. 9.

French 1-2 at Tour de France on stage 3



NANTES, France (AP) — France celebrated a double success on the third stage of the Tour de France, while race favorites Alejandro Valverde and Cadel Evans kept their strength for Tuesday’s crucial time trial.

Samuel Dumoulin of France won a closely contested sprint finish, and countryman Romain Feillu gave success-starved French fans further cheer when he claimed the yellow jersey by finishing third on Monday.

French stage wins and yellow jerseys have been a rar-

ity in Tours since Bernard Hinault won the last of his five Tours in 1985.

“We proved that we know how to train, we are not worse than the others,” Dumoulin said. “French riders deserve a win on the Tour. I hope it will help improve the image of cycling in France.”

Dumoulin and Feillu were part of a four-man breakaway that led for most of the windy, rainy 208-kilometer (129.2-mile) trek from Saint-Malo to Nantes.

Evans, who finished 39th, and Valverde, back in 68th, finished nearly two minutes back, safely among the pack.

Valverde, the race leader

since winning Saturday’s opening stage, lost the yellow jersey by dropping from first to fourth, but “it doesn’t change a lot” for the Caisse d’Epargne team.

Tuesday’s 29.5-kilometer (18.3-mile) clock race, beginning and ending in Cholet, will start in reverse order from the overall standings. This means Valverde rides fourth-from-last and gives him the chance to see how fast Evans goes.

Evans, sitting one second behind Valverde and ninth in the overall, starts about 10 minutes before Valverde.

“The aim for me was to make sure I started behind all

the favorites,” Valverde said. “So that I will have an idea of their times.”

Tuesday’s fourth stage will give the first real indication as to which riders are looking strong, and could see Evans and Valverde open up significant time gaps on others—or each other.

They had a close tussle in last month’s Dauphine Libere race, where Valverde won the time trial and the race—beating Evans into second place by 39 seconds.

Other Tour contenders like Russia’s Denis Menchov, and Spain’s Carlos Sastre, also need a strong time trial.

Sastre, a mountain specialist,

is six seconds behind Evans and seven seconds behind Valverde.

Fourth overall last year and third in 2006, Sastre is not particularly fast—so if he loses too much time on Tuesday he may struggle to make that time up later on when the Tour hits the Pyrenees and Alps.

“I know Carlos is not really looking forward to it,” Sastre’s teammate Stuart O’Grady said, adding that Sastre must limit his losses to a “minute and a half.”

Sastre’s team director, 1996 Tour winner Bjarne Riis, expects Sastre to feel the pressure on a fast course.

“I think there will be some gaps, of course,” Riis said.

Other riders could also take the yellow jersey from Feillu.

Fabian Cancellara, the world champion, is 1:52 behind, and veteran David Millar is 1:46 back.

Because of the relatively short distance, Cancellara is not the overwhelming favorite he normally would be, so Millar has a chance for a top-5 finish—or better.

“It’s definitely going to be a fast one,” said Matt White, a former U.S. Postal Service rider who is now Millar’s sporting director on the Garmin Chipotle team. “It’s not so technical, as there’s rolling hills, but it’s really fast.”

Millar, who came back to the Tour last year after serving a two-year ban for admitting to doping, has not worn the yellow jersey since winning the 2000 prologue.

IGUEL

From Page 28

to win the 1500m and 3000m.

At the 2008 Oceania Championships he entered in the under-18 division and finished fourth in the 200m (23.50), fourth in the 800m (2:07.10), and second in the 1500m (4:28.68).

Norfolk Island’s Dayne O’Hara last year represented his country at the World Championships in Osaka (100m: 11.86) and the Pacific Games in Apia (100m: 11.94 and 200m: 24.20).

In the 2008 Oceania Championships, O’Hara entered both the 100m (11.99) and 200m (24.42)

Guam’s Kenneth Karosich recorded a 24.03 second 200m and 53.72 for the 400m in the 2007 Islands Ranking List, but this year has emerged as primarily a hurdler.

In the 2008 Oceania Cham-

pionships he ran a good 16.15 [-2.4mps] in the heats of the 110m hurles, and then improved on it to 15.50 [-0.7] in the final. He improved his 400m hurdles time of 58.35 in the heats to a bronze medal-winning 57.02 in the final.

The 110m hurdles race was run over the senior height of 1.06m, while in Bydgoszcz the hurdle height will be 99cm.

Several of the Iguel’s teammates in Bydgoszcz, meanwhile, went directly from their home countries and did not compete on Saipan.

Thomas Slowinski, from French Polynesia, has a Polish grandfather. It will be interesting to see the Polish reaction when he arrives.

Last year Slowinski competed in Ostrava where he recorded a time of 11.40 seconds for the 100m. In the Apia Pacific Games, he ran 23.30 for the

200m and participated in Tahit’s 4x100m relay. In 2008, he has run a windy 11.1h 100m, and 23.1 for the 200m.

Adison Alfred from the Solomon Islands, for whom OAA has no 2008 information, is another of the islanders who participated in the World Youth Championships in Ostrava last year. He recorded 11.25 for the 100m there, and two months later was in Apia for the Pacific Games. In Apia he ran the 200m in the time of 22.77 seconds.

Nauru’s Dana Thoma, after many transport and visa difficulties, finally managed to join the main team.

She has not had any 2008 performances in the Islands’ Ranking Lists, but was listed in 2007, with her best performances coming in the Micronesian Championships in Guam in December. Her best was 13.29 seconds in the heats of the 100m, eventual-

ly picking up the bronze medal in a time of 13.31.

Paseka Fangupo from Tonga had a very active National Championship program earlier this year. He entered the 100m (11.39), 200m (22.91w), 400m (53.96), 400m hurdles (56.31) and the high jump (1.70m). Last year his best performances were 52.00 for the 400m and 1.75m in the high jump.

American Samoa’s Jeffrey Tago is a bit of a mystery for OAA as no results can be found for him for 2007 and 2008. That is unless he is the same person as Faasolo Tago, who is a thrower who competed in this year’s National Championships.

The Oceania team to the 12th IAAF World Junior Championships will have Janelle Eldridge of Australia serving as manager and two federations have sent accompanying coaches—Jone Delai of Fiji and Jay Antonio of Guam.

FALCONS

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That run came in the bottom of the seventh—the Falcons tucked in four more runs in the top of what turned out to be the final inning—when Masaharu’s lone run made it 26-7.

That was it for Kabur though as Suel forced Hayes to ground out to first base and Bobai tagged out at third after a fielder’s choice on Sakuma’s at-bat.

Justin Quitano led the Falcons’ offensive force, going 3-for-5 with two runs and three RBIs. Suel, Manny Evangelista, and Pete Teigita also went .500 at the batter’s box and also recorded two RBIs apiece in the win.

Camacho was efficient from No. 1 spot, striking out five batters in five innings that saw him surrender eight hits that led to six runs while only being as-

sessed an error.

McQueen Masaharu led Kabur’s losing cause by going 2-for-3 and driving home one run. Hayes, Bobai, Hector Efrain, and Renguel also regssistered RBIs each. The loss was the 11th in 13 games for Kabur, which in only a half game better than 1-11 win-loss card of tailender O’Conner Tigers.

BSML action continued last night, Tuesday, July 8, with the suspended game between Komoro and D-9ers.

Today, July 9, D-9ers will take on Korean Dreams. On Thursday, July 10, Kabur will then square off against the Rangers; and on Friday, July 11, Komoro will play the Rangers.

If everything goes well as far as Mother Nature is concerned, according to BSML coordinator Tony Rogoli-foi, the playoffs will begin on Monday, July 14.

DOC

From Page 28

22 points to help Legislature take a 43-37 spread at the half.

Jason Lizama took care of the scoring cudgels for Aguagat in the third by torching the net for nine of his 21 points, but his effort was cancelled out by the Punzalan’s six and Ray Deleon Guerrero’s eight points—two of them triples—that kept Legislature on the driver’s seat, 68-63 heading into the final 10 minute of the contest.

Aguagat still had a descent chance of turning tables on Legislature, trailing by only five entering the playoff period, but timely hits by Punzalan and Dave Apatang allowed the latter to escape with the win.

Deleon Guerrero led four Legislature players in double

figures with 21, while Duenas, Apatang, and Punzalan added 18 or more in the victory.

Ryan Sablan scored a game-high 26 markers in the loss, while Jason Lizama and Reyes chipped in 21 and 15 points, respectively.

In the second game, Corrections improved its win-loss mark to 3-2 following its 98-66 demolition of Department of Public Works.

It was a no-contest from the get-go, as Corrections went ahead with an eight-point lead, 23-15, thanks to balance scoring in the first 10 minutes of action.

Walter Mendez then played the fireman’s role for DOC in the second, scoring six points to spark his team to a 41-29 advantage at intermission.

Jeff Quitugua then began to assert himself on offense in the third, igniting his team with eight of his team-high 23 points

as Corrections continued to lord it over DPW with a 23-point buldge, 67-44, at the end of three quarters of play.

The game was essentially over at the start of the final frame, as both teams emptied their benches not soon after with Corrections dealing DPW its fourth loss in five games.

Mendez, Luis Iguel, and Peter Mendiola backed up Quitugua with 16, 12, and 10 points, respectively, while Edgar Pangelinan and John Guerrero paced DPW in the setback with 40 points between them.

Last week, Tinian dealt Department of Community and Cultural Affairs its second loss with a 123-98 win on Wednesday. On Monday, Bank of Guam demolished Commonwealth Ports Authority, 90-54, in the first game, while Northern Marianas College cruised to an 85-59 victory over Aguagat in

the second.

First Game

Legislature 87 — Deleon Guerrero 22, Duenas 21, Apatang 18, Punzalan 18, Bermudes 4, Guinto 2, Cabrera 2.

Aguagat 83 — R. Sablan 26, J. Lizama 21, Reyes 15, Guerrero 10, J. Sablan 7, R. Lizama 4.

Scoring by quarters: 21-17, 43-37, 68-63, 87-83.

Referees: Arnold Mesa and Jess Pabula.

Second Game

DOC 98 — Quitugua 23, Mendez 16, Iguel 12, Mendiola 10, Seman 8, Blas 8, Castro 7, Iramk 5, Kwon 5, Joab 4.

DPW 66 — E. Pangelinan 22, Guerrero 18, J. Pangelinan 12, Takai 10, Basa 2, Iglecias 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-15, 41-29, 67-44, 98-66.

Referees: Arnold Mesa and Gilbert Espinosa.

NORTH

From Page 28

with Mongolia in its first game Monday. It later lost to powerhouse Japan, 0-3, to finish group play with a 1-2-1 record.

In other Group A matches Monday, South Korea beat Mongolia, 5-0, and Japan won over Chinese Taipei, 6-0.

Japan and South Korea thus top Group A with identical 2-0-1 records. Chinese Taipei (1-2-0) finished in fourth place with Mongolia (0-2-1) bringing in the rear.

Making up the CNMI team are Devin Atalig, Hunter Thorpe, Caleb Ariola, Jaythan Camacho, Crosby Shultz, Bo Barry, Stacy Escueta, Jake Lee, Clay McCullough-Stearns, Josiah Orlando, Angelo Jones, Andrew


Johnson, Keoni Borja, Mickey Coleman, Misaki Cramer, Masami Hirai, Hunter Jewell, and Jehn Joyner

R.J. Knecht and Christian Miller are also part of the squad but are not able to compete because of injury and other commitments.

A total of 10 teams are taking part in the EAFF U-14 Youth Festival 2008 Guam. The matches consist of two

20-minute halves, with the better third-place team joining the top two teams from each group in Playoff Group E. The lesser third-place team will be joined by the bottom two teams from each group in Playoff Group F.

The EAFF U-14 Youth Festival was last held at the China National Football Training Center in Beijing in 2006, where the CNMI made its international debut.



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	55	33	.625	—
Boston	53	39	.576	4
New York	47	42	.528	8 1/2
Baltimore	44	43	.506	10 1/2
Toronto	42	47	.472	13 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	51	37	.580	—
Minnesota	50	39	.562	1 1/2
Detroit	44	44	.500	7
Kansas City	40	50	.444	12
Cleveland	37	51	.420	14

West Division

Los Angeles	54	35	.607	—
Oakland	48	41	.539	6
Texas	46	44	.511	8 1/2
Seattle	35	54	.393	19

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	48	42	.533	—
Florida	46	43	.517	1 1/2
New York	45	44	.506	2 1/2
Atlanta	42	48	.467	6
Washington	34	56	.378	14

Central Division

Chicago	53	36	.596	—
St. Louis	50	40	.556	3 1/2
Milwaukee	49	40	.551	4
Cincinnati	43	47	.478	10 1/2
Pittsburgh	41	47	.466	11 1/2
Houston	41	49	.456	12 1/2

West Division

Arizona	44	45	.494	—
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Los Angeles

44

45

.494

—

5

San Francisco

39

50

.438

Colorado

38

52

.422

6 1/2

San Diego

35

55

.389

9 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Pittsburgh 10, Houston 7

N.Y. Mets 10, Philadelphia 9

Colorado 4, Milwaukee 3

Florida 3, San Diego 1

L.A. Dodgers 3, Atlanta 0

Monday's Games

Kansas City 7, Tampa Bay 4, 10 innings

Boston 1, Minnesota 0

L.A. Angels 9, Texas 6

Oakland 4, Seattle 3

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

Govt Basketball Standings

PTI	2	0
BOG	6	1
NMC	3	1
Autonomous	2	1
DCCA	4	2
DOC	3	2
Tinian	3	3
Legislature	2	5
Aguaguat	1	3
DPW	1	4
CPA	0	2
DPS	0	3

BSML Standings

Rock Steady	13	0
Tanapag Falcons	10	4
Ford Rangers	8	4
Koreans Dreams	6	7
San Roque D9ers	5	7
Komoro	4	8
Team Kabur	2	11
O'Conner Tigers	1	11

Tsunami Saipan ARC Water Safety Course

Photos BY MARK RABAGO



The 63 participants of the American Red Cross Water Safety Course pose with their coaches and assistant coaches from Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan during their graduation ceremony Saturday at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.



Tsunami Saipan president Stan Good teaches intermediate students swimming fundamentals during the first Saturday of the ARC Water Safety Course.



A total of 22 students enrolled in Level I of the program—easily the biggest among the groups.



Parents bring out their digital cameras to take photos of their children graduating from Tsunami Saipan's ARC Water Safety Course.



Left, Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura, right, teaches Level I students the proper way of kicking.

Far left, former national swimmer Tamiko Winkfield helped teach the older set of students.

Right, Tamiko Winkfield confers with one of the swimmers during the first Saturday of the ARC Water Safety Course.

Far right, Tsunami Saipan's ARC Water Safety Course was its third for the 2007-2008 season. In all, a total of 188 have already learned to swim under the fledgling club's program.





French 1-2 at Tour de France on stage 3

France celebrated a double success on the third stage of the Tour de France, while race favorites Alejandro Valverde and Cadel Evans kept their strength for Tuesday's crucial time trial.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Brewers send 4 prospects to Indians for Sabathia

With one XXL-sized move, the Milwaukee Brewers hope to transform themselves from scrappy underdogs to a big, bad pitching powerhouse intent on chasing down the Chicago Cubs and making the playoffs for the first time since 1982.



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Iguel part of 14-man team to Poland

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The CNMI's Jesus Iguel will be part of a 14-person team that the Oceania Athletics Association will be sending in the 12th IAAF World Junior Championships set from July 8 to 11 in Bydgoszcz, Poland.

According to the OAA website, Iguel ran 11.82 (100m) into a slight headwind in the 2008 Oceania Grand Prix. In the 2008 Oceania Championships, he ran two rounds of the 100m in 11.91 and 11.92 plus a lot of relay duties.

The 12th IAAF World Junior



Championship will be the first time Iguel will be representing the CNMI in an off-island event for athletics.

Nine of Iguel's 13 teammates in the Oceania team actually saw action in the recent 2008 Oceania Championships and the 2008 Oceania Grand Prix held here on Saipan from June 21 to 28.

Fiji's Isoa Me, for instance, registered personal bests in the 200m and 400m in the 2008 Oceania Grand Prix and was involved in an epic 400m race with veteran sprinter Mowen Boino of Papua New Guinea.

Their race went down into the final stretch and resulted in both Me and Boino recording the time of 48.45.



Papua New Guinea's Shirley Vunatup (31) in action in the 200m sprint of the 2008 Oceania Grand Prix.

DAN KIMBALL

In the 2008 Oceania Championships, Me finished third in the 400m (48.75) and won the gold in the 200m with another great personal best of 21.93. He was also a member of the Fiji 4x100m relay team that won the gold and broke the games record in the heats.

Margaret Satupai of Samoa, for her part, won four gold medals in the under-18 and open divisions of the 2008 Oceania Grand Prix and 2008 Oceania Championships. She won gold with a 14.27m in the shot put and the discus throw by hurling for 46.57m.

On Saipan, Emile Nisap of Vanuatu ran the century dash in 11.81 in the heats and improved that to a 11.71 in the semifinals. He also finished the 200m in a time of 24.12 (better than the 24.7 he recorded a year ago) and participated in Vanuatu's 4x100m relay.

Papua New Guinea's Shirley Vunatup, on the other hand, was selected for the World Juniors as a result of her performances in earlier training camps and the East New Britain Inter-Schools Athletics Championships.

On Saipan, Vunatup had time of 13.91 and 13.84 in the 100m and 27.84 and 27.09 in the under-18 200m competitions.

Douglas Schmidt from Palau, meanwhile, is a very versatile athlete. In the Pacific Games in Apia, Douglas ran 2:20.11 in the 800m.

Three months later in the Micronesian Championships, held on Guam, he had improved his 800m time to 2:04.47—to win the gold medal. He also went on

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North Korea beats CNMI, 9-0

By MARK RABAGO
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The CNMI lost its third straight game Monday when North Korea gave the local boys a 9-0 beating in Day 2 of the EAFF U-14 Youth Festival 2008 Guam at the Leo Palace Resort.

The 18-man youth team of the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association are now 0-3-0 in Group B competition. The CNMI lost its debut against Macau, 0-2, last Sunday before being pummeled by powerhouse China in its second game, 0-15.

Other Group B results Monday saw North Korea take down Macau, 4-0, Hong Kong hold powerhouse China to a 0-0 draw, and Hong Kong skunk Macau, 6-0.

North Korea finished the elimination round a spotless 3-0-0 win-loss-tie record, while China at 2-0-1 came in second.

Hong Kong (1-1-1), Macau (1-3-0), and the CNMI (0-3-0) round out the teams in the group. The local booters actually closed out their elimination round schedule yesterday with a game against Hong Kong, but results were still not available as of press time.

While the CNMI lost its first three games, the islands' southern neighbor, Guam, has been faring better and wound up in a scoreless tie

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Falcons peaking at the right time

By MARK RABAGO
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Mike Pangelinan joined Kim Jae

Young of Komoro as the only players so far to have registered an outside-the-park homerun in the 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League.

And the Tanapag Falcons' first baseman couldn't have found a better time to hit the over-the-fence homer than the defending champions' 26-7 mercy shortened win against Kabur Monday night in the resumption of the islands' premier baseball competition.

With the score at 9-2 in the top of the fourth, Pangelinan came up to bat against Jason Hayes and didn't waste time in joining Kim in the elite list with a loop-

er that went way, way above the head of Kabur leftfielder Payton Sakuma at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Falcons scored four more runs in the fourth to increase its lead

to 14-2 and Darson Camacho continued to hold down Kabur's hitters in the fifth by shutting down John Tuti, Hayes, and Leo Bobai in 1-2-3 fashion.

Kabur showed some signs of



MARK RABAGO

Tanapag Falcons' Oscar Sablan goes up to bat against Kabur's Jason Hayes in the fifth inning of their 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League game at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field Monday night.

life in the fifth—after the Falcons scored four more runs in the top of the inning—by managing four home plate-crossings of its own on consecutive RBIs by Hayes, Ray Renguel, and Darwin Masaharu to make it 18-6.

But that was too weak of an explosion from Kabur's top of the order to make a dent on the Falcons' mammoth lead.

To make matters worse, the Falcons just continued to pile up the runs in the sixth as Jess Taitano drove in Pangelinan and Sid Sablan and Henry Iguel did the same for Doro Camacho, while Oscar Sablan reached on an error to make it 22-6.

J.R. Suel then took over from Camacho on the mound, and the reliever actually even improved on the starter's numbers as he gave up only three hits and one run the rest of the way.

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DOC, Legislature notch wins

By MARK RABAGO
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Department of Corrections and Legislature took different routes in registering wins in the resumption of the 2008 PTI Inter-Government Business Basketball League Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

In the first game, Legislature escaped a stubborn Aguagat five, 68-63, to raise its record to 2-5. The loss, meanwhile, was the third in four outings for Customs.

Pint-sized Ray Duenas got things going for the Capital Hill boys, scoring five of his 21 in the opening quarter to give Legislature a 21-17 lead going into the second quarter.

He then combined with Joel Punzalan in the second quarter, as the duo scored 15 of the team's

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MARK RABAGO

Department of Corrections swingman Jeff Quitugua, seen here in a file photo blocking Bank of Guam's James Villacrusis' shot, scored 23 points in the team's 98-66 win over DPW in the 2008 PTI Inter-Government Business Basketball League Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.